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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a further one-year delay in federalization to Nov. 28, 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of June 9, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Plane Debris

Search crews recovered the vertical stabilizer from the tail section of an Air France jetliner that went down in the Atlantic.

WORLD...Page 16

4 hurt in car crash after driver turned at red light. **PAGE 2**

Traffic, patrol cars to be equipped with laptops. **PAGE 5**

NMI yet to designate free trade zones 9 years after law passed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine years had passed since the passage of the Free Trade Zone Act of 2000, but the CNMI has yet to designate public lands to encourage, among other things, industrial and commercial activities to diversify the local economy.

The Free Trade Zone Act, signed by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Sept. 22, 2000, seeks to stimulate the local economy through the creation of free trade zones, the creation of tax incentives, and the establishment of a public corporation to administer free trade zones.

It says the types of business, industrial and commercial activities that are in the best long-term interests of the CNMI are those that require significant capital investment, are low labor intensive, have negligible impact on the environment, and are compatible with tourism.

See NMI on Page 4

16 govt execs fail to disclose finances

OPA: These officials face $10 daily fine

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sixteen or 5 percent of the 329 government officials required to file their statement of financial interests for calendar year 2008 are facing a $10 daily fine for every single day they fail to file since the 30-day grace period ended on May 31.

The Government Ethics Code Act of 1992 sets the deadline for filing verified statements of financial interest on May 1 of each year. However, filers are given a 30-day grace period to comply with the law.

Public Auditor Mike Pai said yesterday 270 or 82 percent of required filers were able to file their financial disclosures on or before May 1.

Between May 2 and May 31, there were 29 additional filers.

Pai said 14 additional government officials filed their financial statements after June 1, while 16 have yet to file.

Since June 1, a penalty fee of $10 per day began accruing

See 16 GOVT on Page 4

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

A Bengal tiger named Tasha roams the inside of her enclosure at the Saipan Zoo. Tasha's former owners, husband and wife Leslee Houston and Barry Cox of the defunct Southern Comfort Ranch in Guam, have pleaded guilty to wire fraud and trafficking of endangered or protected animals. The tiger's new owner, Frank Aldan, explains his side of the story.

Saipan Zoo complies with all regulations

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of Saipan Zoo, Frank Aldan, says the zoo is fully compliant with all federal regulations, and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture granted Saipan Zoo a license in January 2007 after finding it in full compliance with federal regulations.

This comes soon after the co-owners of the defunct Southern Comfort Ranch in Guam pleaded guilty to charges of wire fraud and trafficking of endangered or protected animals.

Some of the animals at the Saipan Zoo were purchased from the Southern Comfort Ranch just before it closed down in 2006.

In December 2006, Saipan Zoo applied for a license to operate for commercial purposes.

SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Local

4 hurt in car crash after driver turned at red light

Four persons were injured during a vehicular collision allegedly caused by a driver who proceeded to make a turn despite a red light at a traffic intersection in Dandan Monday night.

Medics immediately transported all four occupants of two vehicles to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment. They were later released.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said that alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

David said traffic officers determined during their preliminary investigation that the operator of the green Jeep Cherokee caused the accident by disobeying a traffic signal light.

He said DPS received a call about an accident along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Dandan on Monday at 9:39pm.

Preliminary investigation showed that the Jeep Cherokee, driven by a 59-year-old man, was traveling west on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road when it made a left turn on a red light at the Shell traffic signal light.

A white Kia Sephia sedan, driven by a 53-year-old man and traveling east on the outer lane, struck the Jeep Cherokee.

After the initial impact, the Jeep Cherokee tipped over on its left side and came to rest on the outer eastbound lane. The Kia sedan ended up west of the Cherokee.

David said the weather was cloudy and the road surface, including the shoulder of the road, was wet at the time.

The sedan had extensive damage from bumper to hood. The Cherokee had moderate damage to the left and front bottom side. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Women's artworks in monthlong exhibit

Female artists in the CNMI have banded together to join the ongoing 2009 CNMI Women's Art Exhibit, which began last week at the Council of Arts and Culture office display on Capital Hill.

A total of 17 female artists are featured in the exhibit that will run until July 4.

Arts coordinator Paker Yobei said they are still inviting women artists to participate. There are about 40 female artists in the CNMI.

Flowerpot Salas is the latest addition to the previous list of 16 whose artworks are now on display and for sale.

Collectors can purchase items for as low as 50 cents for a hair tie to as high as $400 for an acrylic painting.

Artists featured in the ongoing exhibit include Lucille Kraufer, Debbie Winkfield, Emy Bugarin, Karen Cabrera, Rose Marie Diaz, Cynthia Takesi, Wan Lee, Dawn Crystal, Flowerpot Salas, Tokei Mojica, Norlyn Bitco, Cherry Camigla, Ginni A. Bachan, Fracis Kaipat and Lucia Ayuyu.

Many of these artists also joined the Flame Tree Festival two months ago.

Yoebei said local buyers may now purchase some of the items but the Arts Council will ask them to leave the items for the duration of the exhibit.

"We also request the buyers from off-island to get their stuff when they leave Saipan," Yobei said.

Currently on display are traditional crafts and beadwork, household tools, miniature canoes, and handmade jewelry.

There are also paintings, books and other historical reading materials about Saipan, Rota, Tinian and even Guam and the Pacific Region.

The exhibit is open from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, and 9am to 12pm on Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays and holidays. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Lucille Ayuyu examines the acrylic artwork of Rosemary Diaz that are currently on display at the CNMI Council of Arts and Culture Office on Capital Hill for the 2009 Women's Art Exhibit.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Saipan Zoo owner explains side in trafficking issue

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of Saipan Zoo explained yesterday his side of the story, following the guilty plea entered by the co-owners of the defunct Southern Comfort Ranch in Guam on charges of wire fraud and trafficking of endangered or protected animals.

Frank Aldan, owner of Saipan Zoo, said he received a subpoena ordering him to testify in Guam, supposedly on Monday. However, on Sunday, he was informed by the court that his presence will not be needed since husband and wife Leslee Houston and Barry Cox entered a plea agreement before the District Court of Guam. The two face a possible 20-year prison term

Saipan Zoo purchased some 34 kinds of animals from Southern Comfort Ranch in 2006, including endangered animals such as a tiger, a leopard and three species of birds (owl, voucher and red tail hawk).

Aldan said Houston and Cox did actually violate the Lacey Act or the Protection of Endangered Species law for the sale and transport of the animals from California to Guam.

They then again violated the same law when they transported the animals from Guam to Saipan, explained Aldan. According to the law, one cannot transfer such animals from state to state without proper permits.

Based on the plea agreement provided to *Saipan Tribune* by Aldan, Houston and Cox did not have permits for the transportation of the tiger or purchase and shipping of leopards and three migratory birds.

Aldan said Saipan Zoo was not aware of such a violation when it agreed to take on the animals.

The animals were sold to the Saipan Zoo after Houston and Cox decided to close Southern Comfort Ranch because they were having difficulties in maintaining the facility.

Saipan Zoo had been operating since 1996 and part of its expansion was the purchase of 34 animals from the Southern Comfort Ranch.

In December 2006, Saipan Zoo applied for a license to operate for commercial purposes.

"We have no problem with the federal government. The animals were struggling when we purchased them from Guam. They were very thin. We nourished them back to health," said Aldan.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture granted Saipan Zoo a license in January 2007 after finding it in full compliance with federal regulations.

Aldan said the economic crisis is also affecting his business. "We're actually losing money with the zoo but we will continue with this," he added.

Aldan said Saipan should be proud that "we have the biggest zoo in the Pacific, except for Australia and New Zealand."

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$400K reprogramming bill is now local law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Monday signed into law a Saipan local bill reprogramming lapsed/unobligated funds that initially amounted to only $9,742 and substantially grew to almost $400,000 due to a substitute bill and floor amendments by lawmakers at their May 20 session.

The bulk—$200,000 of the $$387,742 in reprogrammed funds—will be used to fund the water lines at the Langasat area and power lines extension at the Bwooset Place, as well as for power line extension at the Talofofo and upper As Matuis areas. But these will not be funded until such time the anticipated Developer's Infrastructure Tax Funds are collected.

Fitial signed House Local Bill 16-30 S1 D3 with a vetoed item.

The local bill is now Saipan Local Law 16-9.

In his message to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Fitial said Section 2(D) appropriates $50,000 from the lapsed/unobligated funds under Saipan Local Law 16-1, Section 3(1), but only $47,811 is available.

As such, there is a shortage of $2,189 for appropriation.

"Rather than veto the entire bill or the entire section, I am exercising my power under Article 2 Section 7 of the NMI Constitution and making the tough decision of disapproving the item with the smallest appropriation amount," Fitial said.

This item is the bus shelter for Precinct 5. The local bill appropriated $5,000 for it.

The governor instead urged the Legislature to find a different source of funding to provide a bus shelter for schoolchildren before the opening of school year 2009-2010.

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua (D-Saipan), main author of the local bill, yesterday said he welcomes the governor's signing of H.L.B. 16-30 for understanding the "necessity of the programs funded."

"I hope the programs and activities will benefit from the local law tremendously, given that there's few resources available these days," Quitugua said.

He, however, said he has yet to see a copy of the governor's transmittal letter.

Fitial commends the Legislature for addressing the water lines at the Langasat area and power lines extension at the Bwooset Place, as well as the power lines at Talafofo and upper As Matuis areas.

"It is for that purpose that section 2(E) is approved based on anticipated Developer's Infrastructure Tax Funds for the Third Senatorial District and will be funded upon realization of actual collections of said taxes. The items addressed in this section shall not be implemented until such time," he said.

During the May 20 hearing of the legislative delegation, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said delegation members circumvented the Local Law Act of 1983 when they passed the local bill on a 16-2 vote.

She said the local bill reprograms lapsed/unobligated funds of $9,742, but this substantially grew to $387,742 after a substitute bill and floor amendments were offered instead of introducing a new bill to give ample time for review and comments.

Sablan said substituting bills whole-cloth during sessions defeats the purpose of Public Law 3-077 of the Local Law Act of 1983.

But just the same, the local law was transmitted to the governor's desk and signed into law.

Record turnout at Tinian Covenant picnic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Covenant Party's standard-bearer, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and running mate Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos are joined by Tinian Covenant Party officials and supporters during the party's first picnic of the campaign season at the fiesta grounds on Sunday.

Tinian residents turned out in record numbers at the Tinian Covenant Party's first picnic of the campaign season at the fiesta grounds on Sunday.

The event started with a motorcade beginning at the Tinian airport where about 500 Tinian residents awaited the arrival of the Covenant Party's standard-bearer, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and running mate Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos. Both arrived at 11am.

Tinian Covenant Party candidates Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola, Joaquin H. Borja, and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan led the motorcade with Fitial and Inos.

According to one estimate, there were 302 vehicles in the motorcade.

"From where we were sitting [on a pick up truck bed at the beginning of the motorcade] we could see cars, trucks, vans, lowriders, jeeps, bikes, and 4x4 trucks throughout Broadway Avenue. It seemed to go on forever," said San Nicolas.

Tinian Covenant Party chair Jose P. Cruz said they want all of Tinian to know that the party has a complete slate.

"We are ready for the campaign season. We welcome all residents of Tinian to the party. We are an inclusive party as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are welcomed to the Tinian Covenant Party," he said.

Fital, Inos, and San Nicolas gave welcoming remarks, with the governor highlighting his accomplishments while in office: the release of tens of millions of dollars in "cover over" funds; the timely release of tax rebates and refunds; and deficit-free budgets for the past three and a half years.

San Nicolas thanked the Fitial Administration for their support of Tinian projects and programs and asked Tinian residents for four more years.

"As our theme this year is 'continuing the progress', we are humbly asking our people of Tinian for an opportunity to continue the progress we are making," said San Nicolas.

The mayor also recognized the accomplishments of former Senate president Joseph M. Mendiola, Aldan, and Borja. He asked all of his supporters to vote solid Covenant Party.

Maggie Naputi and Joseph T. San Nicolas provided the entertainment, while Covenant Ladies chair Juanita M. Mendiola conducted the raffle drawing throughout the day.

Cruz also announced the endorsement of Eric C. San Nicolas, Eugene L. Villagomez, and Ignacio P. Aquiningoc for Municipal Council and Lucy Maratita for the Board of Education.

Cruz said the party endorses San Nicolas, Villagomez, Aquiningoc, and Maratita because they will work with the Fitial and San Nicolas administrations in continuing the progress being made on Tinian.

"The event was a complete success. We are seeing new faces and we are getting very positive responses from the community here in Tinian as well as from residents living abroad," Cruz said. ***(PR)***

PAWS WARS: Free dog show this Saturday

PAWS is inviting the community to attend this year's dog show titled "PAWS WARS: Episode III, Revenge of the Boonies."

All dogs, big and small, mutts and pure-breeds, may participate in the free event, which will be held on June 13 from 4pm–6pm at the CPA Airport Field, near the Red Cross. Donations for participation are appreciated.

Registration starts at 3:30pm, and due to an expected large turn out, pre-registration is highly suggested. Applicants can download registration forms at www.paws-saipan.org.

Participating dogs must have a leash and collar and be free of mange, a communicable disease. If a dog has been treated for mange, and has been deemed not contagious by an island veterinarian, the dog may participate in the show. If participants have questions about the health of their animal, they are encouraged to call Dr. Tudor at 234-9669 or Dr. Dela Cruz at 234-6169.

Categories for this year's event include "The Booniest," "The Most Disobedient," "The Fattest," "The Most Talented," "The Best Star Wars Character," and "The Best in Show."

First place prize is a three month supply of Frontline. The second place prize is a large bag of dog food, and the award for third place is Adams Flea and Tick Shampoo plus a toy or leash.

Three-time dog show supporter Costco donated numerous prizes for the raffle, including two 40 lb bags of dog food, a dog bed, and dog dental treats. The Hyatt, Fiesta, and Palms Resort all donated buffet tickets for two people at the hotel restaurants. Moby Dick Restaurant donated two lunch tickets.

Repeat supporter PIC has offered to hold a special day at the PIC Waterpark for PAWS on June 20 when all tickets will be sold at a special discounted rate of $10.00 per person. All proceeds from the Waterpark passes will be donated to PAWS.

Pacific Trading has donated drinks, which will be available to participants for a $1.00 in an effort to raise funds for the organization.

Trench Tech, PAWS Members, and Beautify CNMI will host the event. Beautify CNMI will be announcing its volunteers of the year during the show and handing out trophies to those individuals and organizations that donated a great deal of time to the betterment of Saipan.

In addition to showing dogs that belong to members of the community, PAWS will be showing dogs and puppies that are up for adoption. Among those to be shown are Rosy, a female dog that enjoys long walks and hiking; Yoda, a six week old male puppy that is looking for a good family to love him; and a yet-to-be-named female pup, about 12 weeks old, that has been socialized by PIAH for the last month.

Anyone with questions about the event can call 285-PAWS or email Katie Busenkell at Busenkell@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

16 GOVT

From Page 1

for late filers.

Ross Zapanta, audit manager at the Office of the Public Auditor, separately said most of the 16 non-filers are members of boards and commissions.

In the past, a former lawmaker's failure to file his financial statement of interest with OPA reached the Superior Court.

Zapanta, however, said he has yet to learn who among the 16 asked for additional time to file their financial statement of interest.

"These officials potentially face penalty if they don't have a valid excuse for not filing on time. If they are off island for medical referral during the deadline, then that may be a valid excuse," he said.

The 329 required filers include elected officials, judicial officers, appointed department and agency heads, members of boards and commissions, and those who serve as independent contractors for the CNMI government.

Unlike many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. Thus, the assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with consent from the filer.

NMI

From Page 1

On June 4, Rep. Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) pre-filed a house resolution designating a total of 70 hectares of public lands on the three major islands as free trade zones.

House Resolution 16-91 designates 30 hectares of public land on Tinian, 30 hectares of public land on Rota, and 10 hectares of public land on Saipan as free trade zones to be administered by the mayors of the respective islands.

The resolution also seeks to transfer fee simple interest of such public lands to each municipality.

"Examples of such desirable business activities would be production of computer hardware and software, licensing and distribution of intellectual property, computer programming services, database storage and retrieval, and financial and trade related services," H.R. 16-91 says.

The resolution also says it is in the best interest of the CNMI to make available for lease public lands at reasonable rates and to provide incentives in the form of tax relief for desirable businesses establishing operations within the free trade zones.

It says the law is intended to streamline and expedite obtaining the necessary permits or licenses applicable to businesses wishing to establish operations in the free trade zones by directing that these applications be expedited on a priority basis.

5 lawmakers go off island, Fitial to attend WGA meeting

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five lawmakers are either in Pohnpei or California to attend conferences, while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is set to leave on Friday for Utah to attend the Western Governors' Association 2009 Annual Meeting.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), House Vice Speaker Joe P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan) and Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) are in Pohnpei to attend either the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' 28th General Assembly from June 9 to 12, or a Pacific Islands Development Bank meeting, or both.

The APIL general assembly is focused on the military buildup in Guam and its impact on Pacific islands.

Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chair of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, is in California to attend a health conference.

A sixth lawmaker, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), is currently off island on personal leave. He is expected to be back this week to prepare for the June 27 Republican primary.

Fitial, for his part, will attend the WGA annual meeting in Park City, Utah from June 14 to 16.

The meeting is being hosted by Utah Governor and WGA chairman Jon M. Huntsman Jr., and his wife Mary Kaye, and Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert.

Expected at the meeting are 11 Western governors and three Western Canadian premiers and 500 attendees, including Obama Administration officials, other VIPs and industry and nongovernmental leaders from around the west, across the country and around the world, WGA said in its website.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said Fitial will meet with Huntsman, who was recently appointed as U.S. ambassador to China.

At the WGA meeting, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will have its touring photo exhibit on display. The display celebrates the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China.

Traffic, patrol vehicles to be equipped with laptops

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is going high-tech, with all traffic and patrol vehicles on Saipan to be equipped with laptop computers by the end of the year.

Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero, the DPS Communication and Technology Section officer-in-charge, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that they already have the funding to purchase the laptops, but the full implementation target is by the end of August.

Deleon Guerrero said 10 laptop units will be purchased for Patrol and possibly 10 other units for Traffic.

He said the computers will be for Saipan only, but Tinian and Rota will be included in the project's next phase.

He said each laptop computer costs over $6,000.

"Everything is federally funded," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the funding for the computers for Traffic came from the Traffic Records Improvement Grant Program under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"They [laptops] are hooked to the Internet. The signal is send by virtual private network wireless connectivity. But there is a difference. With VTN, nobody can just come in and say I want to access the Internet. It's encrypted," he said.

The project's purpose, Deleon Guerrero said, is to enable patrol vehicles to access information from the DPS records management system.

Deleon Guerrero said the laptops will cut down the response time of police officers. Officers can produce their reports more quickly because they don't have to go all the way to the police station to file their reports.

"The capability is known as field-based reporting. They can do their reports out in the field versus going all the way to the police station to do the reports," he said.

Most U.S. jurisdictions, including Guam, have already been using the field-based reporting system.

DCCA program heads meet to discuss funding concerns

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Program heads of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs began meeting yesterday to discuss issues relating to funding and other issues.

Acting DCCA Secretary Melvin O. Faisao said the continued decline in government revenue is affecting their services to the community.

An Office of the Governor's directive on the control of overtime was one of the topics of discussion.

"We will be bringing up what our strengths and weaknesses are and the opportunities that we need to realign," Faisao said.

Also on the agenda is the upcoming Oceania basketball tournament, to be hosted by Saipan starting June 19. Faisao said DCCA will discuss the existing sports facilities to be used during event.

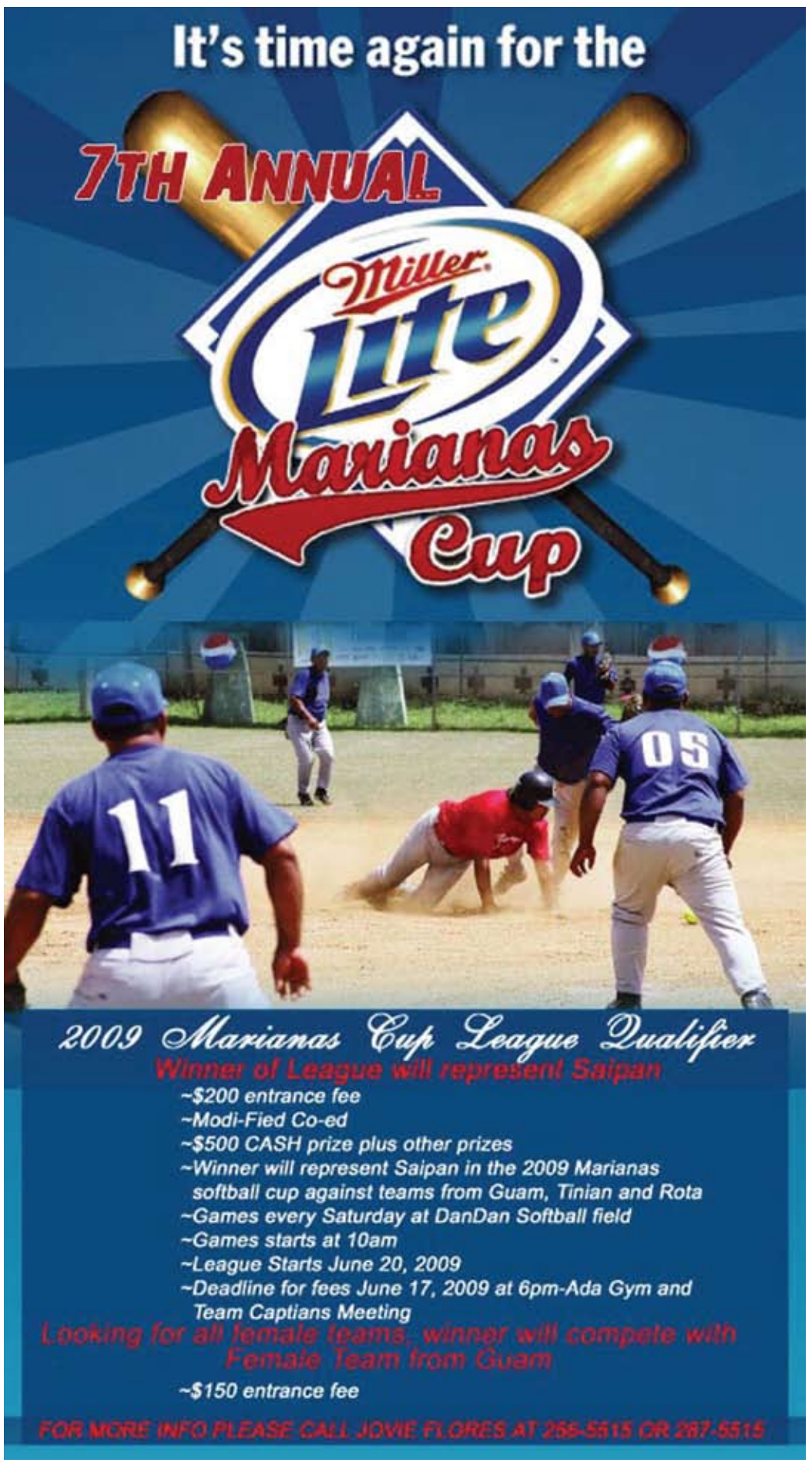
DCCA will be conducting the state plan hearing on June 23 at the Multi-Purpose Center to discuss the Child Care Development Fund, covering the period from 2010 to 2011.

The hearing will be open to the public and all agencies that are collaborating with the Child Care Development Fund will be present.

This is the block grant that was formerly under the Public School System and was transferred last year to DCCA. It subsidizes the child care needs of low-income working families in the CNMI.

DCCA is also gearing up for negotiations for the food stamp program for Region 9 that includes California, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa and the CNMI.

"We will also discuss this during the meeting to get feedback," Faisao said.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~Games every Saturday at DanDan Softball field
~Games starts at 10am
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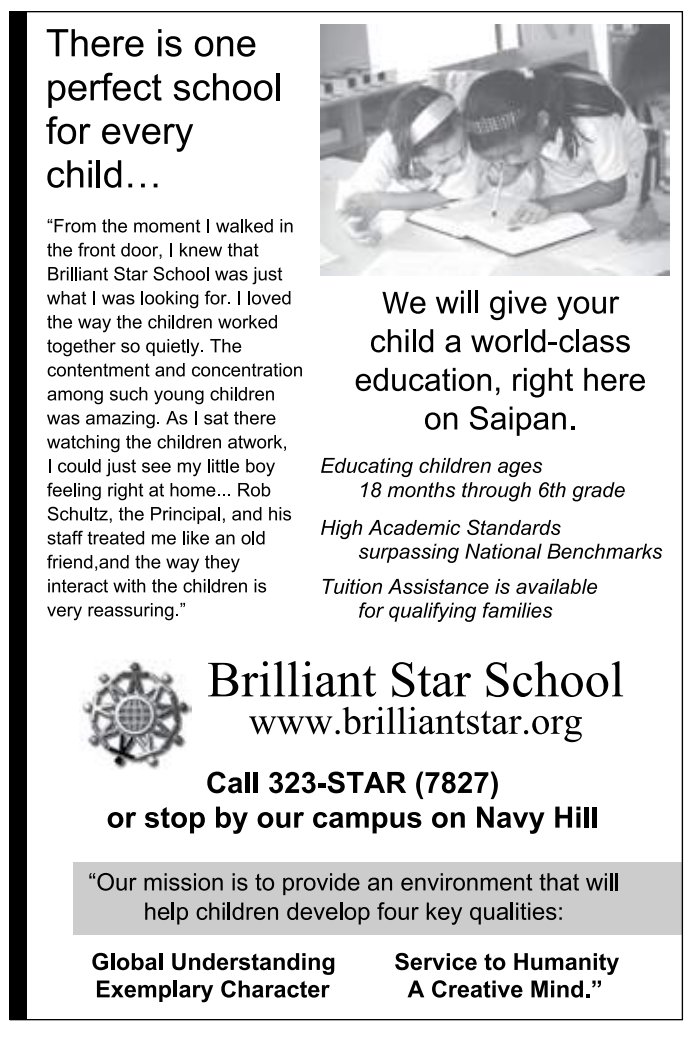
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The Gregorio T. Camacho Parent Teacher Association would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all sponsors, performers, vendors and volunteers ~ everyone ~ who helped to make the 2nd Annual Cultural and Health Festival a success!

CAB Dancers from Palau	Committee to Elect Juan Pan & Joseph Camacho
Do Re Mi Music School	Division of Environmental Quality
GTC Filipino Community	Hafadai Beach Hotel
GTC Thai Community	Hafacast, LLC.
Inatuas Cultural Dance Group	Hollywood Theaters
NMPASI	IT & E
PDM Promoters Inc.–Saipan Awaodori Team (GTC Japanese Community)	JET Holding Co.
	John Oliver DLR. Gonzales Show
Saipan Southern High School JROTC Color Guard led by Command Sergeant Rabago	Honorable Mayor Juan B. Tudela & Staff
	Mr. and Mrs. Julian and Marcia Calvo
Sister's Forever Dance Group (GTC Chukese Community)	Pacific Islands Club
Spectrum Dance Group from Kagman High School	Palms Resort Saipan
Tataga Dancers of Tanapag Elementary School	Representative Justo Quitugua
Bradley Dlg. Camacho & Family	Representative Ralph Torres
Commissioner of Public Safety	Senator Luis Crisostomo
Dept. of Public Safety – DARE Program	Senator Pete Reyes
Dept. of Public Health – Comprehensive Cancer Control Program	Subway, Inc.
Division of Fish and Wildlife – Brown Tree Snake Program	Mr. Jonas Barcinas
Marianas Health Services, Inc.	Mr. Ariel Narvaez
Ms. Marlyn Igitol & Family	Mr. Enrico Morales
MV Reyes Catering	Mr. Jose Belnas
Pacific Wellness Center	Mr. and Mrs. Caleb and Melissa Gatharngeg
Worldwide Marriage Encounter	Mr. and Mrs. Anthony and Thess Camacho
Coca Cola, Co.	GTC Student Council Officers and Representatives

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER www.saipantribune.com

Fund calls in 2 witnesses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund called yesterday to the witness stand its administrator, Mark Aguon, and another officer in the ongoing hearing on the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government.

Aguon, who used to work as the Fund's technical analyst, spoke about the Fund's history and its investment policies.

After Aguon, Fund's loan officer Richard Villagomez discussed the functions of Fund officers, money managers, investment consultant, and other things.

Villagomez is also currently the Fund's interim building maintenance director, technical analyst, and a member of the Fund's finance and investment committee.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Villagomez was still on the witness stand. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo is presiding over the second phase of the evidentiary hearing, which focuses on the "extraneous damages" the Fund incurred because of the government's continued failure to remit its employer contributions.

Fund lawyer Viola Alepuyo said that yesterday's hearing showed the court that the Fund incurred losses because it was not able to invest the money that the government was supposed to be remitting.

Assistant attorney general Anthony Welch, counsel for the CNMI government, told *Saipan Tribune* that, based on Aguon's testimony, the Fund lost over $50 million in investment during economic crash in 2008.

"They [Fund] stuck with their policy. They did not change their investment policy. They gave a reason for it but that's in fact what happened," Welch said.

He said any money the Fund is losing becomes a government obligation.

"It means the government has to pay more money. So the issue of whether or not their investment policy is good is not for me to say," he said.

Organizers ready for Car Rally

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Organizers are now ready to hold the Car Rally slated this Saturday, June 13, with the starting line at the Coca-Cola parking lot in Chalan Lau Lau.

Susan Marchitti, account manager of organizer *Beach Road Magazine* said, all participating drivers must be there at 9am. The cutoff is 9:30am so they need to come on time.

A driver's meeting is set at 9:45am for updates and final instructions.

"If people want to sign up, they need to do it by Friday, June 12, as there is paperwork they have to fill out and we are discouraging people from coming on the day of the event to sign up as they may not get a place in the event," Marchitti said.

Awarding ceremonies will be held at Oleai Beach Bar and Grill on Sunday, June 14, starting at 5:30pm.

Prizes at stake will be $200 for first place plus a one-hour photo shoot with Hideo Honda (photographer for *Beach Road Magazine*); second place, $150; and third place, $100.

There are also three dinners for two at the Palms Resort (steak, seafood and all-you-can-eat teppanyaki), a $40 gift certificate at Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort's Crystal View Restaurant, a free rental car at Thrifty for one day, basketballs and soccer balls from Boarderline, candy bars from MBI, free Scoops ice cream certificates, prizes from the Saipan Grand Hotel, a free cell phone from Docomo Pacific plus a $20 load, and more.

Marchitti said that every car should get a prize just for entering.

"If anyone wants to still sign up, we are still taking entries, but they'd better move fast," she said.

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Labor looking into violations of job preference rule

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor is looking into several cases of employers allegedly refusing to entertain U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are applying for available jobs.

Labor Division of Employment Services Director Alfred Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that whenever resident workers apply for a job, some employers would tell these applicants that the positions are for renewal only and that there's no job available.

"We want to educate [employers] that they should not do that. When applicants call, whether they are U.S citizens or permanent residents, don't tell them that this is only for renewal or that they will close their business if they hire resident workers," Pangelinan said.

This practice, the director emphasized, is against the law and that he wants employers to be aware of it.

"What [employers] need to do is call the [applicants] in when anyone applies. They need to call them in, either by calling them on the phone or e-mailing them, giving them the opportunity to sit down and be interviewed," Pangelinan said.

He stressed that employers should select their hiring based on the merits of the interview.

"We're having complaints all over the place that whenever they call or respond to a job, the [employers] will say that it's only for renewal or that they will close their business," he said.

Pangelinan said Labor is now addressing several cases, but that investigations are still ongoing.

"We are actually looking into a number of cases now regarding that," he said.

Not giving U.S. citizens or permanent residents the opportunity to fill job vacancies could mean that these applicants have the option to file a case before the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Pangelinan said.

"There are several cases that went through EEOC regarding this type of situation," he said.

Locally, Labor will not certify these employers' job vacancy announcements, disqualifying them from hiring nonresident workers, Pangelinan said.

"The other penalty is that we may end up in administrative hearing and under that situation we may ask for monetary fines," he said.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2009.

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SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	021E	5/30 Sat	5/28 Thu	5/28 Thu	5/26 Tue	5/23 Sat	6/5 Fri	6/1 Mon	5/31 Sun	5/24 Sun	5/24 Sun	6/1 Mon	6/5 Fri	6/7 Sun	6/9 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/6 Sat	6/4 Thu	6/4 Thu	6/2 Tue	5/30 Sat	6/12 Fri	6/8 Mon	6/7 Sun	5/31 Sun	5/31 Sun	6/8 Mon	6/12 Fri	6/14 Sun	6/16 Tue
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/13 Sat	6/11 Thu	6/11 Thu	6/9 Tue	6/6 Sat	6/19 Fri	6/15 Mon	6/14 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/7 Sun	6/15 Mon	6/19 Fri	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	022E	6/20 Sat	6/18 Thu	6/18 Thu	6/16 Tue	6/13 Sat	6/26 Fri	6/22 Mon	6/21 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	6/22 Mon	6/26 Fri	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	035E	6/27 Sat	6/25 Thu	6/25 Thu	6/23 Tue	6/20 Sat	7/3 Fri	6/29 Mon	6/28 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/29 Mon	7/3 Fri	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/4 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/2 Thu	6/30 Tue	6/27 Sat	7/10 Fri	7/6 Mon	7/5 Sun	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	7/6 Mon	7/10 Fri	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	021E	6/13 Sat	6/14 Sun	6/14 Sun	SKIP	6/18 Thu	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/26 Fri	6/27 Sat	7/2 Thu	7/21 Tue	7/5 Sun	7/1 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	034E	6/20 Sat	6/21 Sun	6/21 Sun	6/23 Tue	6/25 Thu	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/30 Tue	7/3 Fri	7/4 Sat	7/9 Thu	7/28 Tue	7/12 Sun	7/8 Wed
MELL SENOKO	023E	6/27 Sat	6/28 Sun	6/28 Sun	SKIP	7/2 Thu	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/10 Fri	7/11 Sat	7/16 Thu	8/4 Tue	7/19 Sun	7/15 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	022E	7/4 Sat	7/5 Sun	7/5 Sun	7/7 Tue	7/9 Thu	7/11 Sat	7/12 Sun	7/14 Tue	7/17 Fri	7/18 Sat	7/23 Thu	8/11 Tue	7/26 Sun	7/22 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	035E	7/11 Sat	7/12 Sun	7/12 Sun	SKIP	7/16 Thu	7/18 Sat	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue	7/24 Fri	7/25 Sat	7/30 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/2 Sun	7/29 Wed
MELL SENOKO	024E	7/18 Sat	7/19 Sun	7/19 Sun	7/21 Tue	7/23 Thu	7/25 Sat	7/26 Sun	7/28 Tue	7/31 Fri	8/1 Sat	8/6 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/9 Sun	8/5 Wed

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Cooking contest still looking for participants

The Cook A Rainbow Challenge is still looking for participants in both the non-professional and youth categories.

"We recognize that folks may be hesitant to participate due to the high cost of shrimp, and to that end, each participant that registers by the deadline and attends the contest orientation will be given a small stipend," said Patricia Coleman, contest organizer.

Registration ends at 4pm on June 10, 2009. Registration forms are available online at www.deq.gov.mp or by calling the NMC CREES office at 234-5498 ext. 1726/1703. Entries may be submitted via fax at 234-0054 or at the CREES offices located at Building F at the college. They should be addressed to the attention of Coleman or Rose Castro.

Judging will be based on taste, creative presentation, texture, use of fresh local ingredients, and originality. This year, participants will need to include shrimp in their recipes.

The contest will take place on Thursday, June 25 at the Garapan Street Market and is coordinated by the Ayuda Network, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, NMC-CREES, PSS-Headstart, DPH-Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

For more information about the Cook A Rainbow Challenge, contact Castro or Coleman at 234-5498 ext. 1726/1703. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. 2009-CDA-02-ITB

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 · 10:00 A.M.

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY — PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE 1st FLOOR, COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118 AND MUST BE SUMBITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DOC-105

SUBMISSION: JUNE 29, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"PROJECT MANAGERS TO MANAGE PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 18, 2009.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DOC-106

SUBMISSION: JUNE 29, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"GRANT WRITERS FOR PURPOSES OF PURSUING FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA)"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 18, 2009.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM 1
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

1. **General:** The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. **Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your bid to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).**

2. **Pre-Bid Conference:** A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ***Thursday, June 11,2009 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base, Sa/pan, MP.***

3. **All Questions:** All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time ***Thursday, June 18, 2009*** to Mr. Steve Hiney, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Lower Base Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

4. **Sealed Bids:** must be marked "DPW09-IFB-019". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. July 6,2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. local time July 6, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-Mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 6, 2009, and must be received no later than July 15, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

5. **Bid Opening:** Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 16,2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids wil1 be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 6, 2009

All other requirements of the Invitation for Bids of the project package remain as stated.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
June 8, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. May 13, 2009
    b. May 20, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report-CDA
  2. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
  2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
    a. PTI Services, Inc. – QC Application
    b. SandCastle Saipan, LLC Benefits
V. OLD BUSINESS
VI. NEW BUSINESS
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: June 12th, 2009

CONTACT: Trina Sablan
PHHS-BG Coordinator
Tel: 236-8703 / 664-4870
Fax: 236-8700

TIME: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

VENUE: CE Rm. (Next to the Cafeteria), Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan, Saipan

PURPOSE: Presentation and deliberation of the FY 2009 Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant (PHHS-BG) – Diabetes Complication Control Program's proposed goals and objectives.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 10, 1999

Water crisis grips Rota

More than 1,500 residents of Songsong on Rota have been experiencing empty faucets in the past two days following a drastic drop in the level of Water Cave, the island's major source of potable water, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. This is the second time the island has faced serious water crisis since last year when the cave fell to its lowest level due to the drought triggered by the El Nino weather phenomenon. Tony Reyes, CUC deputy director for Rota, said their customers are angry and have harassed employees because of the water shortage.

CRM: No new investment project since January

With the economy still reeling from the effects of Asia's financial crisis, the Coastal Resources Management did not receive any permit application for a major investment project in the Northern Marianas from January to May 1999. The absence of any major investment left CRM with minor projects to approve—from the construction of volleyball poles on the beachside in Dai-Ichi Hotel, establishment of barracks, parking and toilet facility on Tinian, trimming of trees in Nikko Hotel to filming activities of various groups. As tourism officials struggle to get back the lost market share in Japan, various Japanese companies flocked to the CNMI to film their movie and television projects. CRM gave some 103 permits, mostly to Japanese companies in the five-month period of 1999.

June 10, 2002

A date with the Sun tomorrow

Astronomers and amateur eclipse chasers will troop to Tinian tomorrow to witness a rare celestial event—an annular solar eclipse that would be visible to most parts of the island, except at its northern tip. It was learned that the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been fully booked months in advance by people who want to witness this solar phenomenon, and it is anticipated that the first ferry schedule in the morning—12:15am and 3:30am—would be packed with tourists and kibitzers alike. The eclipse is set to occur around 8:10am, where the moon will hide 99 percent of the Sun's disk. This will produce an effect called "annulus" or a ring of fire around the shadow of the moon.

NMIRF investments drop to $345M

April snapped the two-month winning streak of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's investment portfolio, posting a 1.45-percent drop in the portfolio's market value. From March's $350.18 million, the Fund's overseas investment lost out to the bear in April, dropping to $345.1 million, or a difference of $5.07 million, based on figures provided by Fund money manager Merrill Lynch. The plunge was not unexpected, though, with Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker saying in an earlier interview that they expect the plunge, considering the bearish performance of the stock markets in the United States at the start of the second quarter.

June 10, 2003

Wright wants ETC for priority projects

Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright prefers the use of educational tax credit money for the higher learning institution's priority projects. At the same time, Wright noted that there is no need to place ETC in a separate account, pointing out that this may only be used for unintended projects. "I don't sort out money in different pockets.I don't like that. I look at our overall budget." As president he knows the college's sources of funding, but he would not want to get into the business of analyzing them, including the ETC.

Flexibility on SARS policy sought

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association is seeking a compromise under the Commonwealth government's self-imposed ban on the entry of persons from areas identified by the CNMI as SARS "hotspots," after the latest restrictions reaffirmed a local ban against travelers from Hong Kong and other Asian cities. Richard A. Pierce, SGMA executive director, stated, "We seek only reasonable relief as we fully support the CNMI Government's directives concerning this life threatening infection. "However, if we can guarantee that identified persons preparing to enter the CNMI have been medically cleared of the SARS virus, and when we offer to further quarantine them for another 14 days after entry at our expense, we would still have a sound and safe way to protect all residents of the CNMI, and limit the economic impact on all of us here, as well."

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been **dependent** on the **income of another family member** but no longer supported by that income and are you **unemployed or underemployed** and experiencing difficulty **obtaining or upgrading employment?**

If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

VEHICLES FOR BID

2003
Kia Sorento LX

2004
Suzuki Grand Vitara

2005
Toyota Tacoma

2005
Hyundai Sonata

1997
Toyota Camry

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

If interested please contact Frank Ermitanio or John Blas at 235-6044.

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Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-GOV-107

OMB and CIP Office Renovations

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the OMB and CIP Office Renovations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Thursday, June 11, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill. A $100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by the CNMI and Federal laws.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on June 22, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on June 23, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Building No. 1356, Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB09-GOV-107"**. An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, June 30, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, June 30, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars **($250.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by thirty **(30)** calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-019

PUERTO RICO DUMP FINAL CLOSURE SAIPAN, MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Division of Solid Waste Management, are soliciting sealed Bids for construction, of the Puerto Rico Dump closure system, on the island of Saipan.

The project package will be available on or after May 27, 2009, at Pacific Quick Print & Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, SAipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7 "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and serivices on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage as required by CNMI and Federal Law.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on June 5, 2009, 10:0 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division's Lower Base Transfer Station, Lower Base.. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site and condition of the project. All questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2009 to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas,** Acting Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, or fax to (670) 322-2762.

Sealed bids shall be marked with the name of the submitter and the title "**Puerto Rico Dump Final Closure, DPW-09-IFB-019"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of Bids must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, June 22, 2009 to the Director of Procurement and Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Cnmi, Saipan, MP 96950. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than June 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via Facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or va e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and six (6) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 22, 2009, and must be received no later than July 1, 2009. Failure to submit the required number of sets may be gount for rejection.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, July 2, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on June 22, 2009.

A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Clerk or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment Bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI.

Performance time for completion of the project is three hundred sixty five **(365)** working days upon issuance of official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will assessed as provided for in the Bid Specification Package.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval of DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Freedom for the Uighurs

There is still a small window of opportunity for President Obama to do right by 17 men who have spent years behind bars even though they should never have been imprisoned. If the president fails to take action, then the courts must.

These men, ethnic Chinese Muslims known as Uighurs, were brought in 2002 to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and held as enemy combatants. A short time later, military officials raised doubts about whether these men were enemies of the state; a federal appeals court believed to be the first to review the classified information justifying detention unanimously concluded that the government lacked any credible evidence against one of the men. The Bush administration ultimately announced that none of the Uighurs had been properly classified or held as an enemy combatant.

That should have been enough for these detainees to regain their freedom, except that the United States could not return them to their homeland for fear that they would be persecuted there. The Obama administration, like the Bush administration before it, tried unsuccessfully to find countries to take the men. That challenge was made exponentially more difficult recently by the demagoguery of U.S. lawmakers of both parties who made unsubstantiated claims that these detainees were dangerous terrorists. These lawmakers banded with others to attach to must-pass spending bills provisions to prohibit the transfer of any detainees to U.S. soil. These provisions would require the president's signature to take effect.

These actions have already had devastating consequences: Germany, which is home to a Munich-based Uighur community, recently declined to take nine of the detainees, in part because of the fear-mongering by U.S. lawmakers and strong resistance from China. The Uighurs have also found little relief in court: Last year a federal trial judge ordered the men to be brought to the United States only to be overturned by an appeals panel. Lawyers for the Uighurs have asked the Supreme Court to weigh in; in a filing last week opposing high court review, the Obama Justice Department—echoing the Bush administration—said no judge has the legal authority to order the men admitted into the country.

The administration may be right, but these developments threaten to make the Uighurs modern victims of a real-life version of Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit." The president should save them from this fate by using his executive power to allow them entry into the United States, following final and thorough security reviews to be shared with lawmakers in the places where Uighurs are likely to settle. This move could also help allies rethink their opposition to taking in detainees.

Obama did not create the mess that is the Guantanamo prison, but the mess is now his to clean up. If he does not act soon to grant at least some Uighurs a home in the United States, then the Supreme Court should step in to determine whether the judicial branch has any legitimate role to play in this extraordinary and extraordinarily disturbing matter. One day of wrongful imprisonment is unfortunate; years of knowingly wrongful incarceration is an abomination that cannot be tolerated if the rule of law and justice are to have any meaning.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Let's play..."Spot the Racist!"
I WOULD HOPE THAT a WISE WHITE MAN WITH the RICHNESS OF HIS EXPERIENCES, WOULD, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, REACH a BETTER CONCLUSION THAN a LATINA FEMALE WHO HASN'T LIVED THAT LIFE.
I WOULD HOPE THAT a WISE LATINA FEMALE WITH the RICHNESS OF HER EXPERIENCES, WOULD, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, REACH a BETTER CONCLUSION THAN a WHITE MAN WHO HASN'T LIVED THAT LIFE.
THIS MADE-UP GUY?...
...OR HER?
IF
SUPREME COURT NOMINEE SOTOMAYOR...
©2009 The Augusta Chronicle 6/4

The responsibility of managing other people's money

Last of a two-part series

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

Throughout the United States there has been a growing number of class-action lawsuits recently brought on behalf of participants in retirement plans covered by the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act. This federal law has raised the level of concern among trustees and sponsors of many pension plans.

Fiduciary responsibilities and personal liability have become of increasing interest and concern for trustees throughout the United States. ERISA covers more than 700,000 retirement plans of public and private firms, and nonprofit and government plans are subject to the same rules. Class action lawsuits have increased concern throughout the country about the proper execution of fiduciary responsibilities.

In May 2004 the Department of Labor launched its Fiduciary Education Campaign called, "Meeting Your Fiduciary Responsibilities" for those charged with the management of member's pensions. (See the DOL website http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/fiduciaryresponsibility.html)

As the website points out, "While ignorance was never bliss for plan fiduciaries, the campaign sets the stage for DOL to say 'we told you so.'" All trustees of pension plans have thus been forewarned according to the federal government.

A person is a fiduciary if one performs fiduciary acts such as acting as a trustee, an investment advisor, any and all individuals exercising discretion in the administration of a plan, all members of a plan's administrative committee—and get this—"those who select committee officials."

I leave it to the reader to guess who that is.

"Under ERISA, fiduciaries have potential liability for the actions of their co-fiduciaries, so a fiduciary cannot escape liability by pointing fingers. Furthermore, while hiring investment advisors may result in shared responsibility, it doesn't eliminate it. A fiduciary is required to use due diligence in hiring and regularly monitoring the activities of all service providers to the plan. While delegation is often necessary in administrative activities—it is a double-edged sword in a fiduciary environment."

The Buck Research website points out that a "plan's trustee's responsibility extends under both common law and ERISA to collect plan contributions including delinquent contributions.

The DOL's Field Assistance Bulletin (FAB - 2008-01) "has clarified that the failure of a plan's named or functional fiduciary to assign the obligation to monitor and collect delinquent plan contributions to either a trustee, an investment manager or a fiduciary who will direct a limited power trustee may result in liability to the fiduciary."

I presume a Buck consultant has briefed the NMI Fund trustees on the above since, to my knowledge, the firm has performed work for the Fund—but I think it's also very helpful for those members who might be interested to also know a bit about fiduciary responsibility as it concerns those who are managing their money.

According to Buck, "The DOL found instances where plan documents and instruments were ambiguous with respect to monitoring and collecting delinquent plan contributions. When instruments are ambiguous, employer contributions are delinquent if not made within a reasonable time after the obligation to make the contribution arises."

I've been harping for years about the central government's failure to honor its legal obligation to the Fund by failing to make its employer contribution payments. Now even the Feds are concerned about this "deadbeat" issue that seems to prevail among many pensions.

The primary responsibility of fiduciaries is to run the plan solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits and paying plan expenses. Fiduciaries who do not follow these principles of conduct may be personally liable to restore any losses to the plan, or to restore any profits made through improper use of plan assets according to DOL. Get that? Potentially liable.

Courts may take whatever action is appropriate against fiduciaries who breach their duties under ERISA, including their removal. ERISA applies to both the administration of employee pension and health benefit plans.

A fiduciary relationship to trust and confidence is one where the fiduciary holds or controls property for the benefit of another person acting solely in the interest of plan participants and their beneficiaries and with the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to them. This obviously involves carrying out their duties prudently.

In terms of legal liability, in ordinary cases, the standard of conduct is whether the individual has acted as any ordinary, reasonably prudent person would have behaved under the circumstances. However, being a fiduciary trustee, the individual is held to a much higher standard of conduct.

To meet the "prudent man" standard, fiduciaries must make themselves reasonably knowledgeable about the options available; investigate a variety of options and compare choices with competing offerings; keep detailed records showing how the final decision was made; and be aware of which due diligence processes fall to the fiduciary.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Book (p)review: The new passion profit paradigm

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

A strategy for survival

I'd like to tell you about a book for the new paradigm. It's a book I believe will revolutionize the success/self-help/business fields. However, it may not be for everybody. So let's ask and answer a few questions to determine if it's for you.

Given the economic changes we're all reading about, anticipating and experiencing, how would you like to learn how to survive and thrive in the calm before, the prelude to, the tempest during, the wake behind, and the aftermath of what's being called the greatest economic upheaval since the Great Depression? How would you like to develop the skills to weather just about any such storm? be successful? financially independent? free from worry? secure? Sound like a plan? Then let's proceed.

Why you need this book

This book is necessary because something has changed. The paradigm has shifted. Yes, paradigm. We're going to be using, and you will be hearing that word quite a lot over the coming years, so let's define it. According to the dictionary: A paradigm is *"a set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality for the community that shares them.."*

We are at a critical point in history where our assumptions, concepts, values and practices as it relates to success have, are, and more importantly must change in order for us to survive. What has changed is this: In this new paradigm, survival=success.

It doesn't mean we've downgraded success to be simply about survival—what people think of as "just getting by." Quite the contrary. It means we've upgraded the definition of "success" so people will realize they've been working with a limited definition all their lives. What's been missing is a global component to the definition of success.

We're also expanding the definition of "survival" to mean not just "getting by" but the actual and real continuation of existence. We are at a point where the very existence of the planet and its ability to sustain life is now more visibly threatened.

The new paradigm holds, therefore, that there is and can be no success without survival. Every form of life—including the planet—has inherent within it the desire, the programming, the instinct and the coding for survival. And it is this basic, universal thrust towards survival—global survival—that must be the all-encompassing, underlying premise of all our efforts to succeed.

Therefore, this book contains a strategy for survival, not just individual survival, but survival of the planet as we pursue our purpose in life, honor our passions, and strive for personal wealth, money, freedom from worry, independence and security. Our goal, as we apply the new strategy, is sustainability of the planet, because survival of the planet = our survival = our success.

Admittedly, many people feel overwhelmed in the face of such a broad and sweeping goal as the survival of the planet. They believe that such lofty ideals and strategies are for the scientists and experts who will tell governments and big business what to do in order to reverse the ecological trends. They feel powerless to effect real change on the planet, and so, resign themselves to looking out for their own interests—their personal survival—first and foremost.

You need this book to tell you what you can and must do in order to be the change we all seek, weather any storm, and survive in the new paradigm. It is through the application of the strategies contained herein, that you can weather the storm, be successful, financially independent, free from worry and secure.

What makes this book different

First, let me tell you how this book is similar to other books. All the success principles you've encountered in life are the same. The laws of prosperity and success haven't changed. There is still the law of cause and effect, the law of attraction, all the knowledge of how to win friends and influence people, and all the other immutable laws of reality we're come to know, love and practice. However, it is the goal toward which these laws are applied that is decidedly different.

In this new paradigm, you will not need to succeed at the expense of others. You need not exploit the poor and working class in order to get ahead. You need not shelve your ethics in order to advance.

Not everyone is motivated by money. Many are content simply to make a difference for the community as a whole. There exists a paradigm of success, therefore, that adepts, tree huggers, spiritualists and (even) capitalists alike can agree upon. Why? Because everyone shares the basic desire for and thrust toward survival, so we will be appealing—hopefully—to the basic common denominator that unites us all.

Why should I?

As you read through the phases of this strategy, you may be tempted to think, "People have become successful without believing, knowing or practicing these things. Why do I need to change my beliefs and operating basis now?"

Remember this very important consideration: We are not saying that you cannot achieve the old definition of success using the old methods. It is that so-called "success" at the expense of others and of the planet, that has brought us to where we are today. We are working, therefore, on establishing a new definition of success for this moment and beyond.

Or perhaps, realizing that you will be ahead of the curve in your thoughts and actions by following this strategy, and that it may be awhile before the rest of the world catches up to you, you may be tempted to wait and see, and, in the meantime, play by the old rules since there is still a lot of money to be made exploiting others, raping the planet, and looking out for self first. "Why should I be one of the first to go out on the new limb?" you may ask yourself.

As said, this book is not for everyone. It is for those who are already ahead of the curve in their thinking, and are seeking a strategy to support their willingness to be one of the first.

The phases

This book proceeds through the phases of a strategy that abandons mythology, dismantles the existing, respects the previously maligned, incorporates the cosmic, invokes higher consciousness, and empowers the reader to grow in his/her understanding of reality such that the goals of a new kind of success become attainable.

1. Lift the veil

We first need to come to terms with reality as it is playing itself out and admit what others aren't admitting, entertain what is being dismissed, and accept what is being denied. Among those admissions are: There is a transition in effect. Capitalism as it is practiced is under siege. There is a deception taking place. We are greater than we imagine or have been led to believe.

2. Adopt new perspectives

Before you can succeed in the new paradigm, you will be required to relinquish certain perspectives and adopt others. Many of these beliefs and perspectives are on a scale on the opposite side of your current ones. On on abstract level, for instance, where once you believed in hot, now you must believe in cold. Where once you saw only day, now you must also see night.

However, the specific beliefs and revelations that come with the new paradigm are less important than developing the mindset that allows all possibilities. In other words, it should be within the realm of your world view that other perspectives exist, that you should not feel threatened by the possibility that these alternate reality exists and, more importantly, that they can co-exist with yours.

3. Redefine success

The next most critical component of the new strategy is to redefine success. We are going to impose a specific definition of success. While it is true that success is different for everyone, that belief has been the major flaw with the old paradigm. But fear not, I'm not going to tell you that buying your mother a house is more (or less) important than helping a human rights organization.

What I AM going to tell you is that if your strategy does not include or factor in the viability of life on the planet as a critical goal, then it is a flawed plan. Success—and by extension any product or process you create to achieve that success— must include consideration for the effects on the community, other individuals' lives, and the planet as a whole.

4. Empower with new skills to help with the transition

The reason people are feeling hopeless and desperate is that they have not been adequately prepared for the changes we are now experiencing. They have been led to believe that infinite growth based on finite resources is possible. They have not incorporated true survival principles into their life's plan. They have fostered a dependence on external forces for their personal survival. As the house of cards starts to fall, they are left without any viable strategy and run from one room of the house to another in search of security. With the right strategy, you can free yourself from this panic.

5. Execute the strategy

Once we have equipped ourselves with the new mindset of a new type of success, we will need to execute the practical, logistical steps of recognizing and responding to the needs of the new paradigm, creating appropriate products and processes, pricing appropriately, and devising marketing strategies which are consistent with the new paradigm.

SUMMARY

The tragic flaw with most self-help/empowerment/wealth-building books and courses, even those that incorporate the "new" awareness of sustainability and green thinking, is that they overlook, or worse, seek to maintain the paradigm of greed, the illusion of separateness, the suppression of empowering information, and the deception of belief in external control in achieving their aims. This book will be different. Sound like a page-turner? I agree. Sadly, however, this book does not exist. Perhaps, however, with what you now know, you won't need it. But, stay tuned.

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Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com*

Letter to the Editor

Labor problems

The only reason Labor hire aliens because they need the money. If they hire locals, they lose revenue and that's only reason aliens are hired. This is why the Legislature should amend the employment insurance law so Labor doesn't have to worry about losing revenue, every worker could claim unemployment insurance when laid off from work, and Labor could get federal employment grants in helping people go back to work. This is the only way everyone gets a fair share in the labor system. W e need guest workers but at same time we need to put our locals to work by putting in place an employment insurance law so our Labor can operate with unlimited restrictions and that is a reality check for our labor system to level the hiring process for people to get hired and go back to work. We need to address these facts that is causing anger within our locals who are still looking for work.

Joaquin Romolor
Portland, Oregon

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼77°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

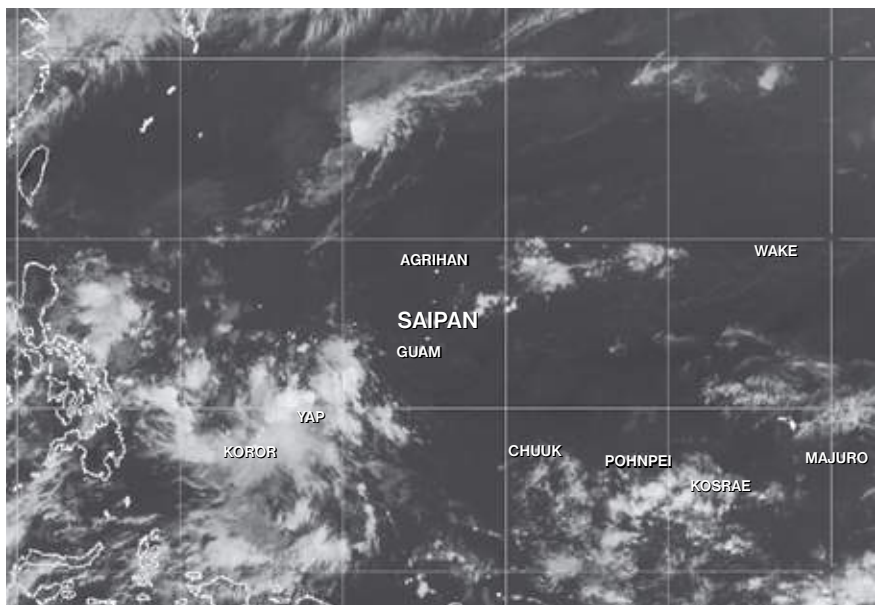
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼52
Beijing	Sunny	▲90	▼60
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Rain	▲63	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲53	▼46
Miami	Cloudy	▲89	▼76
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Osaka	Rain	▲72	▼66
Paris	Rain	▲68	▼54
Pusan	Showers	▲84	▼63
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼60
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Rain	▲73	▼61
Tokyo	Showers	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲82	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A series of equatorial waves are evident in the deep tropics across Micronesia. The first runs north along 139E from a weak circulation near 2N140E to 13N139E. It is generating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms in the vicinity of Yap and Palau from the equator to 12N between 130E and 141E. The second wave extends north along 159E from a weak circulation near 1N159E to 8N159E. This wave is triggering scattered showers near Pohnpei and Kosrae from the equator to 7N between 156E and 164E. The last wave is along 176E from the equator to 13N. Trade wind convergence associated with this wave is producing scattered showers east of the Marshall Islands from 1N to 12N between 176E the date line. Trade wind convergence from a weak disturbance northeast of the Marianas is generating a line of showers from 16N148E to 19N160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:34 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:55 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:34 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:50 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:52 PM	7:30 AM
Thursday	9:34 PM	8:22 AM
Friday	10:13 PM	9:12 AM
Saturday	10:50 PM	10:01 AM
Sunday	11:26 PM	10:48 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

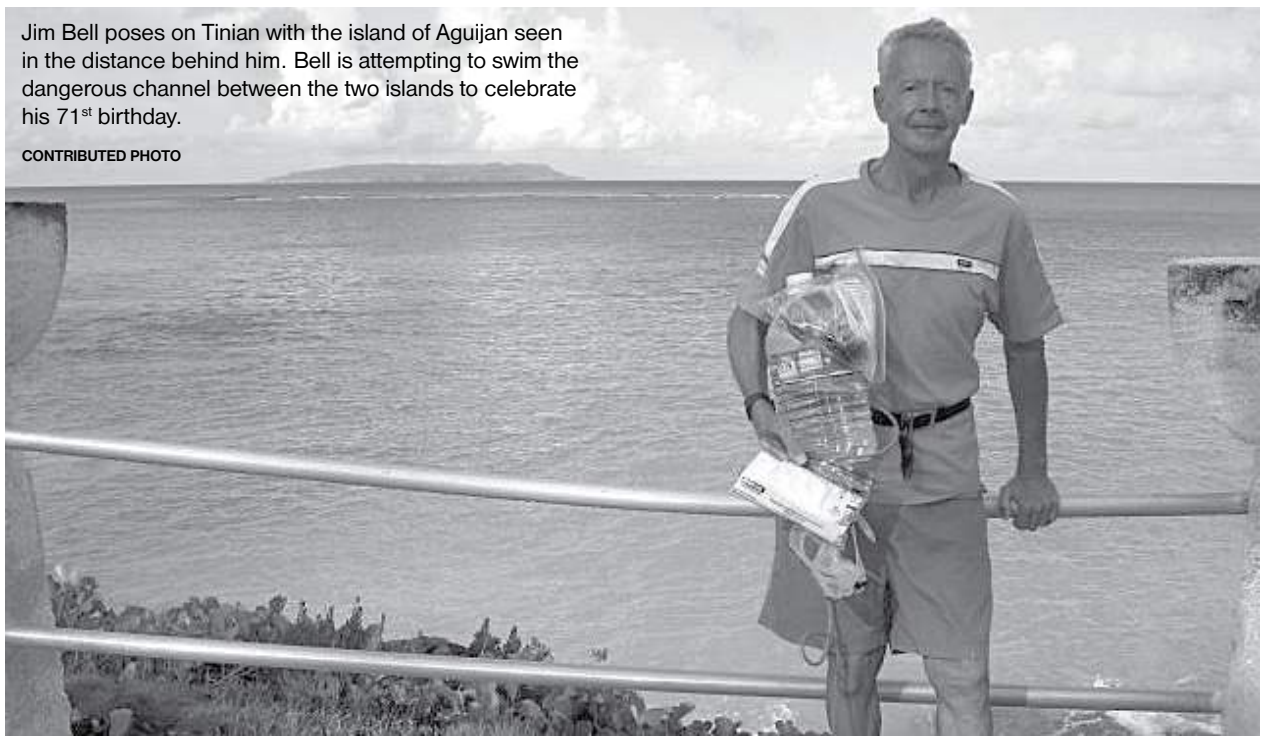
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Jim Bell attempts swim from Tinian to Aguijan



Jim Bell poses on Tinian with the island of Aguijan seen in the distance behind him. Bell is attempting to swim the dangerous channel between the two islands to celebrate his 71st birthday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jim Bell, the famous local swimmer, is attempting to swim the dangerous channel between the island of Tinian and the island of Aguijan to celebrate his 71st birthday. If he is successful, he should already be on the uninhabited island today.

Bell became famous for swimming the channel between Tinian and Saipan last year on his 70th birthday. He made the mile swim in less than four hours. A few months later Bell made the return trip, swimming from Saipan to Tinian. This trip did not go as planned: it took an astonishing 26 hours to make the return crossing. He then spent a few months swimming around the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Now Bell is attempting his most arduous and dangerous adventure yet: a seven-mile swim from the south end of Tinian to the island of Aguijan (also called Goat Island because of the goats that live there). It is a dangerous swim due to the unpredictable ocean currents and the fact that the areas around Aguijan are known to be filled with aggressive tiger sharks. Added to those natural dangers are the facts that the island is uninhabited and has little food and water on the island. Jim is making this swim totally alone and without escort.

Jim's plan was to swim to Aguijan yesterday, June 9, then to spend today swimming around the island; and finally, on Thursday, to make the return swim to Tinian.

Jim is wearing a bright orange shirt, grey swimming trunks, and new tennis shoes (he wears his shoes while swimming, so that he can walk out of the water at any point on the island). He takes with him the following: a diving mask to protect his face, a waterproof watch, and a waterproof emergency light. Attached to a rope, he also carries with him a water bottle (leaving enough air in the bottle so that it will float), and a waterproof bag that contains a cell phone for emergencies, paper and pen to record his thoughts, and a little food—raisins and one avocado.

Tinian resident Kevan Clawson said, "We will know if Jim has been successful if he returns on Thursday. If he doesn't show up, it may mean he was carried off to sea by the strong currents, or eaten by the sharks."

A video interview with Bell just before starting this swim can be seen at YouTube.com. Just search for "Jim Bell" or "Aguijan." ***(PR)***

Continental gives roundtrip tickets to NMC Foundation's golf tourney

In addition to cash and other in-kind prizes, first place winners of this Saturday's golf tournament hosted by the NMC Foundation will also win roundtrip airfare tickets to Cairns, Manila, or Palau.

The plane tickets have been donated by Continental Airlines in support of the 7th Annual Foundation Open Golf Tournament, which will be held on June 13, 2009. The tournament aims to raise funds to advance post-secondary educational opportunities for CNMI students.

The tournament will be a one-day event at the West Course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Show time is 6am with a shotgun start at 7am.

"I encourage all golfers to come out on Saturday to play for a very worthy cause," said NMC Foundation President Ben Babauta. "We're targeting 120 golfers, which will make for a great field in one of the finest tournaments of the season."

"To assist in achieving this, the entrance fees have been set a very reasonable $85 for registrants," Babauta added.

In addition to the roundtrip tickets to Manila, Palau, and Cairns, there are cash prizes for the top winners of the six flights: $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $200 for third place. Hole-in-one prizes include $25,000 cash and a 2010 Mazda 3. In total, there is more than $80,000 worth of possible prizes.

To register to play, stop by Triple J Motors, the Laolao Bay Golf Course, or the NMC Cashier's Office to complete a registration form and pay the $85 entrance fee. Registration forms can also be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goal is to raise funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's only post-secondary educational institution.

For more information about the tournament, please contact Helen at 234-5498 extension 1050. ***(PR)***

Labor uncovers employment scam

The Department of Labor has uncovered a scheme to hire some alien workers for a fee in order for the workers to obtain immigration status.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Herbert D. Soll permanently disqualified Leticia Stoltenberg from employing foreign national workers in the CNMI.

Soll also permanently disqualified from employment Maria Ester Del Rosario and Apolos R. Perez Jr., who operated Stolenberg's business when Stoltenberg departed from the CNMI.

The hearing officer found Stoltenberg, Perez and Del Rosario jointly indebted to five alien workers for the illegally charged fees, ranging from $400 to $1,600.

Soll determined that the workers—Rogelio Balensosa, Teodoro Casido, Adrialen Dela Cruz, Gong Yanyan, and Juanito Oria were less at fault.

Soll said the workers cooperated with Labor and will be given one last chance to transfer to legitimate employers.

According to Labor records, Immigration papers indicate that Stoltenberg left the CNMI in January 2006, leaving her business, Janrome General Services, in the hands of her son, Apolos R. Perez Jr., and his wife, Maria Ester C. Del Rosario.

In the intervening 40 months, Perez and Del Rosario committed gross violations of Commonwealth law that came to the attention of Labor.

One such instance was the employment of Balensosa. When Balensosa became jobless, Perez offered a solution to the worker's employment problem. An employment contract was created to employ Balensosa in Stoltenberg's business as maintenance worker. In fact, there was no work and no job. The employment was a fiction. The worker paid $700 to Del Rosario.

After one year, Balensosa approached Perez again. He was told to pay $900 for his renewal. The payment process began with a $400 cash payment to Del Rosario. Partial payments were made to Perez and then a final payment to Del Rosario.

After waiting for months for his Labor permit, he visited the Labor Processing Section where he discovered that the voucher that indicated the renewal application was actually a forgery.

Balensosa cooperated with Labor during the investigation.

Four other contracted foreign workers—Casido, Dela Cruz, Yayan, and Oria—have somewhat similar stories. They admitted paying for processing and to not having legitimate fulltime work under their permits. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Century Travel Agency receives top award

Century Travel Agency, an affiliate of Tan Holdings, was given the 2008 Top Revenue Award by Continental Airlines on May 7, 2009, for ticket sales.

"It's truly an honor to have won this award. I congratulate and commend the staff and management of Century Travel Agency," said Century Travel Agency president David M. Sablan. "Our services and ability to communicate effectively, as well as cater to our customers have continuously brought them back to into our doors."

Century Travel Agency is a full service travel agency and accredited member of the International Airlines Travel Agent Network. It located in the JP Center in Garapan, Saipan.

Century Travel Agency provides airline reservation and ticketing, hotel and car rental reservation, corporate rate programs, visa requirement assistance, and itinerary planning. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Century Travel Agency president David M. Sablan, leftmost, poses with, from left, travel consultants Lisa Camacho and Zhao Jie, and accountant Cesar Lopez at the Century Travel Agency office after being presented the award.

NAVFAC awards $11M ARRA contracts

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a combined total of $11 million to three local construction firms for repair and modernization of various facilities at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam and U.S. Naval Base Guam.

The contract awards, all components of President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009, are intended to stimulate America's economy and spur employment opportunities.

NAVFAC Marianas awarded a $296,071.04 contract task order May 16 to Guam-based Serrano Construction and Development Corp., an SBA 8(a) and Hub Zone certified firm, to refurbish and resurface a portion of the parking lot at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. The contract scope includes repaving and installing additional parking stalls, wheel stops, curbs and signs. This project will begin immediately and is expected to be complete November 2009.

In addition, NAVFAC Marianas awarded a $10.5 million firm-fixed-price contract May 28 to Reliable Builders, Inc., an SBA 8(a) and Hub Zone certified local construction firm, to repair and modernize three bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQ) at Camp Covington on U.S. Naval Base Guam. The work includes complete interior renovations, improvements to the structural integrity of windows and doors, and installation of energy efficient systems such as solar water heating. Work on the BEQ buildings will begin immediately with a completion date of October 2010.

A $216,624 design-build contract was awarded May 29 to AIC International, Inc., a Hub Zone certified local small business, for the renovation and modernization of endoscopy suites at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. This project will begin immediately and is expected to be complete in the fall 2009.

"These awards reflect NAVFAC Marianas' commitment to supporting our local small business community and making opportunities available," said Captain Paul Fuligni, NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer. "The result of these projects will be enhanced quality of life and improved safety for our service members and their families."

All together, NAVFAC Marianas has awarded a total of five ARRA projects, and all work has been contracted to small businesses on Guam. ***(PR)***

28th Saipan Agricultural Fair

Far left, Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), himself a farmer, shows his finest cooking banana entries, which bagged the first prize in its category at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday. Over 80 full-time farmers and ranchers displayed their finest produce and animals for thousands of children and adults to see at the fair.

Left, children marvel at the finest bananas on display at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday.

Children check out the different kinds of fruits on display at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday. Besides showcasing the finest produce and animals, the agricultural fair also recognizes the hard work and resiliency of Saipan's farmers and ranchers.

Different shapes and sizes of squash and other vegetables were on display at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday. Here, children check out the display at the 4H Building.

A girl looks at a bull on display at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday.

The 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair also featured gamecocks, used for cockfighting.

This bull casts a wary eye on his audience, a couple of boys.

A boy looks at the wild ducks on display at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday. Besides showcasing the finest produce and animals, the agricultural fair also recognizes the hard work and resiliency of Saipan's farmers and ranchers.

Two-year-old Lorenzo Robert looks on in front of the cow and bull cages at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday.

This girl gives these pigs a splash of water to cool them down during the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday.

Business

Court adds uncertainty to Chrysler's reorganization

NEW YORK (AP)—Chrysler's five weeks of breakneck-speed bankruptcy proceedings came to a screeching—but possibly temporary—halt Monday, when a Supreme Court justice delayed its sale of assets to Italy's Fiat.

The move could derail the government's ambitious plan for the U.S. automaker to blaze a path to profitability without the burden of many of its debts.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg issued a stay just a week before Chrysler says the government-backed sale must go through. After June 15, Fiat could walk away from the deal and leave the struggling U.S. automaker with little option but to liquidate.

It was unclear late Monday just how long the stay would last, or if the high court planned to take up the case.

Chrysler said it had no comment until it receives further information from the court.

Ginsburg said in her one-sentence order that the sale is "stayed pending further order," indicating that the delay may only be temporary. Ginsburg could decide on her own whether to end the delay, or she could ask the full court to decide.

A federal appeals court in New York approved the sale Friday, but gave opponents until 4 p.m. Monday to try to get the high court to intervene. Ginsburg issued her order minutes before the deadline.

Despite the aggressive objections of a trio of Indiana state pension and construction funds that own a small part of Chrysler's secured debt, the automaker has moved swiftly through the Chapter 11 process.

The Auburn Hills, Mich., company received bankruptcy court approval for the sale just a month after filing for bankruptcy protection and had been expected to emerge from court oversight when the sale closed.

Obama repackages stimulus plans with old promises

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama assured the nation his recovery plan was on track Monday, scrambling to calm Americans unnerved by unemployment rates still persistently rising nearly four months after he signed the biggest economic stimulus in history.

Obama admitted his own dissatisfaction with the progress but said his administration would ramp up stimulus spending in the coming months. The White House acknowledged it has spent only $44 billion, or 5 percent, of the $787 billion stimulus, but that total has always been expected to rise sharply this summer.

"Now we're in a position to really accelerate," Obama said.

He also repeated an earlier promise to create or save 600,000 jobs by the end of the summer.

Neither the acceleration nor the jobs goal are new. Both represent a White House repackaging of promises and projects to blunt criticism that the effects haven't been worth the historic price tag. And the job estimate is so murky, it can never be verified.

The economy has shed 1.6 million jobs since the stimulus measure was signed in February, far overshadowing White House announcements estimating the effort has saved 150,000 jobs. Public opinion of Obama's handling of the economy has declined along with the jobs data.

Sources: House Dems favor insurance requirement

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senior House Democrats drafting health care legislation are considering slapping an unspecified financial penalty on anyone who refuses to purchase affordable health insurance, a key committee chairman said Monday.

In addition, officials said Democrats are considering a new tax on certain health insurance benefits as one of numerous options to help pay for expanding coverage to the uninsured. No details on the tax were immediately available, and no final decisions were expected until next week at the earliest.

These officials said drafters of the legislation will include a government-run insurance option as well as plans offered by private companies. The government option draws near-unanimous opposition from Republicans and provokes concerns among many Democrats, as well, although President Barack Obama has spoken out in favor of it.

Under the emerging House Democratic plan, individuals and small businesses would be able to purchase coverage from a "health exchange" and the government would require all plans to contain a minimum benefit, these officials added. No applicant could be rejected for pre-existing conditions, nor could they be charged a higher premium, they said.

House Democrats also are considering a wide-ranging change for Medicaid that would provide a uniform benefit across all 50 states and increase payments to health professionals, according to several officials. Medicaid is a state-federal program of health coverage for the poor.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they did not want to pre-empt a presentation to rank-and-file Democrats on Tuesday.

BoH announces new appointments for Pacific Islands Division

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Brian S. Glass, vice president and district manager in American Samoa, and James "Hobbs" M. Lowson, vice president and country manager for the Republic of Palau, will be exchanging roles, effective June 2, 2009.

Lowson

In his new role, Glass will be responsible for Palau operations, including sales and delivery of the bank's products. He joined the bank in 1990, and has served in a variety of management positions throughout the bank's Pacific operations. He also held the position of dealer banking officer in the Auto Dealer Banking Department in Hawaii.

Glass earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Hawaii.

Lowson will be responsible for the overall management of the bank's American Samoa branches. He joined the bank in 1996 and prior to his appointment in Palau had served as assistant vice president and business banking manager in Saipan.

He holds an executive MBA and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Bank of Hawaii offers a full range of financial services, including retail and commercial banking, private client services, and individual and institutional investments. In American Samoa, Bank of Hawaii offers convenient banking services with eight ATMs and two full-service branch offices. Bank of Hawaii has been serving Palau for more than 45 years and in 2003 relocated its branch to a new building in Koror. ***(BoH)***

Nation

FBI director defends use of informants in mosques

LOS ANGELES (AP)—FBI Director Robert Mueller on Monday defended the agency's use of informants within U.S. mosques, despite complaints from Muslim organizations that worshippers and clerics are being targeted instead of possible terrorists.

Muller

Mueller's comments came just days after a Michigan Muslim organization asked the Justice Department to investigate complaints that the FBI is asking the faithful to spy on Islamic leaders and worshippers. Similar alarm followed the disclosure earlier this year that the FBI planted a spy in Southern California mosques.

"We don't investigate places, we investigate individuals," Mueller said during a brief meeting with reporters in Los Angeles.

"To the extent that there may be evidence or other information of criminal wrongdoings, then we will ... undertake those investigations," Mueller added. "We will continue to do it."

He called relations with U.S. Muslims "very good," but acknowledged disagreements without providing specifics.

The Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder after mosques and other groups reported members of the community have been asked to monitor people coming to mosques and donations they make. The FBI's Detroit office has denied the allegations.

In the California case, information about the informant who spied on the Islamic Center of Irvine came out at a February detention hearing for a brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden's bodyguard, an Afghan native and naturalized U.S. citizen named Ahmadullah Niazi who is accused of lying on his citizenship and passport applications about terrorism ties.

Ore. investigators: Woman cut open, baby taken

HILLSBORO, Ore. (AP)—A pregnant 21-year-old newcomer to Oregon who was found dead in a crawl space of a home had been cut open and her baby taken from her womb, investigators said Monday. It couldn't be determined if the infant son of Heather Snively died before or after he was removed, the Washington County sheriff's department said in a statement.

This undated photo released by the Kidd family, shows Heather M. Snively.

AP

A 27-year-old Beaverton woman, Korena Roberts, was to be arraigned Monday on a murder charge in Snively's death.

Investigators have said Roberts claimed Snively's infant was her own. Police were called to the home Friday because a newborn wasn't breathing. Doctors were unable to revive him and told officers that Roberts had not given birth. Police then found Snively's body at Roberts' home.

A medical examiner said Monday that Snively died of blunt and sharp force injuries.

CIA urges judge to keep detainee papers secret

WASHINGTON (AP)—CIA Director Leon Panetta told a federal judge Monday that releasing documents about the agency's terror interrogations would gravely damage national security.

Panetta sent a 24-page missive to New York federal judge Alvin Hellerstein, arguing that release of agency cables describing tough interrogation methods used on al-Qaida suspects would tell the enemy far too much about U.S. counterterrorism work.

The CIA director filed the papers in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. The suit has already led to the unveiling of Bush administration legal memos authorizing harsh methods—among them waterboarding, a type of simulated drowning, and slamming suspects into walls—and a fight over releasing long-secret photos of abused detainees.

"I have determined that the disclosure of intelligence about al-Qaida reasonably could be expected to result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security by informing our enemies of what we knew about them, and when, and in some instances, how we obtained the intelligence," Panetta wrote.

ACROSS THE NATION

Families appeal for clemency for 2 held in NKorea

CARMICHAEL, Calif. (AP)—The father of one of the two American journalists convicted and imprisoned in North Korea said Monday the family won't comment publicly while the case is developing. Laura Ling and Euna Lee were sentenced to 12 years in a labor camp by North Korea's highest court for allegedly entering the country's territory. They were working for San Francisco-based Current TV when North Korean guards seized them March 17 near the North Korea-China border. Doug Ling spoke briefly to The Associated Press at his home in the Sacramento suburb of Carmichael.

Sell San Quentin prison? Inmates don't want to go

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP)—It's some of the most prized waterfront land in the country, a large piece of rich and beautiful property sitting right on San Francisco Bay, and the owner has proposed selling it to raise needed cash. But many of the current residents don't want to leave, and uprooting them would be costly. The property in question is San Quentin State Prison, a maximum-security penitentiary where some of the state's toughest inmates have access to a variety of programs such as tennis and drama, thanks to the many prison volunteers who live in the Bay Area. "Some places you go for punishment," said inmate John Taylor, a catcher for the prison baseball team, the San Quentin Giants. "Here, it's more rehabilitation. I just don't know why the governor would want to shut us down."

Asia

Will US send envoy after NKorea jails reporters?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The sentencing of two American journalists to 12 years' hard labor in North Korea on Monday sets the stage for possible negotiations with the reclusive nation for their release—perhaps involving an envoy from the United States.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who helped win the release of Americans from North Korea in the 1990s, said he was "ready to do anything" the Obama administration asked. Another possible negotiator, if the U.S. government approved, is former Vice President Al Gore, who founded the TV venture that both reporters work for.

A senior Obama administration official said Richardson and Gore had been in contact with the White House and State Department about potential next steps, including possibly sending an envoy to try to negotiate the release of Euna Lee, 26, and Laura Ling, 32, both of whom work for Gore's Current TV.

But the official stressed that no decisions had been made on how to proceed and said neither Gore nor Richardson had been asked to go. The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to the diplomatic sensitivity of the situation.

Asked Monday if the United States will send an envoy to the North, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Obama administration is "pursuing every possible approach that we can consider in order to persuade the North Koreans to release them and send these young women home."

She stressed that the reporters' case and Washington's efforts to punish North Korea for its recent nuclear test are "entirely separate matters."

"We think the imprisonment, trial and sentencing of Laura and Euna should be viewed as a humanitarian matter," Clinton said. "We hope that the North Koreans will grant clemency and deport them."

The isolated North is probably less interested in having the women sent to its gulag, where poorly fed inmates often do backbreaking work in factories, coal mines and rice paddies.

US Marines fan out across dangerous Afghan south

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan (AP)—Teams of builders worked through dust storms Monday to expand a base for a brigade of U.S. Marines now fanning out across southern Afghanistan to change the course of a war claiming American lives faster than ever before. Some 10,000 Marines have poured into Afghanistan in the last six weeks, the military said Monday, transforming this once small base in the heart of the country's most violent province, Helmand, into a desert fortress.

The statement to embedded journalists, including a team from The Associated Press, was the first confirmation that the military has fully deployed the first wave of 21,000 additional troops President Barack Obama ordered to Afghanistan this year to help stanch an increasingly violent Taliban insurgency.

The 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, normally based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., will battle the Taliban as well as train and fight alongside Afghan security forces.

"This is where the fight is, in Afghanistan," said 1st Sgt. Christopher Watson, who like many of the troops was most recently deployed in Iraq. "We are here to get the job done."

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 because the country's extremist Taliban leaders were sheltering Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, the Islamic terrorist group behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

Gunmen kill 10 at mosque in southern Thailand

PATTANI, Thailand (AP)—Gunmen opened fire on a mosque in southern Thailand during evening prayers Monday, killing at least 10 people and wounding another 19 in the violence-plagued region, police said.

The attack was one of the most deadly single incidents since an Islamic separatist insurgency was launched in Thailand's three southernmost provinces in early 2004. More than 3,400 people have been killed in the violence, most victims of the insurgents.

Five or six men shot automatic rifles into the mosque in Narathiwat province's Joh-I-Rong district on Monday, said police Lt. Col. Somjai Singkliang.

However, the Web site of the newspaper The Nation cited Army spokesman Col. Parinya Chaidilok as saying there were only two attackers. The newspaper also reported that an 11th person had died en route to hospital.

Among those who died at the mosque was the Imam, or prayer leader, said Somjai, who added that most of the 19 people wounded in the attack were in serious condition.

Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala provinces, where virtually all the violence has occurred, are the only Muslim-majority provinces in predominantly Buddhist Thailand. Southern Muslims have long complained of discrimination, especially in education and job opportunities.

Last week two teachers, one eight months pregnant, were killed in the same province in an attack attributed to the insurgents. The deaths triggered intense anger among the area's Buddhist community.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: Oldest son speaks on NKorean succession

TOKYO (AP)—A man believed to be the eldest son of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Il said in an interview aired Tuesday he thinks reports that his youngest brother will become the communist country's next leader are true. "Well, I hear the news by media. I think (it's) true," Kim Jong Nam said in an interview with Japanese broadcaster TV Asahi in Macau when asked about recent South Korean media reports on the succession. Japanese media aggressively follow the movements of Kim Jong Nam, who travels frequently to China and Macau.

Police fire on protesters in Indian Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP)—Security forces opened fire on protesters in Indian Kashmir on Monday, wounding at least seven people, including two critically, in the worst clash since unrest broke out last week over the deaths of two young women. Locals claim the women were raped and killed by Indian soldiers and have staged angry demonstrations that have spread across the Kashmir valley. Monday's protests came a day after police released forensic reports confirming that the two women were raped. Police were investigating the rapes but no one had been charged. The cause of death had not yet been determined, the statement said.

Myanmar court set to rule on witnesses for Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Lawyers for Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi expressed hope Tuesday that a court would accept their request to reinstate three defense witnesses at a trial that has sparked global outrage. Defense lawyer Nyan Win said the Yangon Divisional Court planned to announce at 3:00 p.m. (0830 GMT) whether it would reverse the decision of District Court judges presiding over Suu Kyi's trial. The lower court disqualified all but one defense witness. The 63-year-old Nobel laureate is widely expected to be found guilty of violating the terms of her lengthy house arrest because an uninvited American man swam secretly to her closely guarded lakeside home and stayed two days. Suu Kyi has been detained without trial for more than 13 of the past 19 years, including the past six.

World

Crews find vertical stabilizer in Air France crash

In this photo released by Brazil's Air Force, Brazil's Navy sailors recover debris from the missing Air France jet at the Atlantic Ocean, Monday, June 8, 2009.

AP

RECIFE, Brazil (AP)—Search crews recovered the vertical stabilizer from the tail section of an Air France jetliner that went down in the Atlantic, Brazil's air force said Monday—a key item in finding the cause of the crash. Eight more bodies also were found, bringing the total recovered to 24 since Air France Flight 447 disappeared with 228 people on board, according to Air Force Col. Henry Munhoz.

The discoveries of debris and the bodies are all helping searchers narrow their search for the jet's black boxes, perhaps investigators best hope of learning what happened to the flight.

Brazilian military officials have refused to detail the large pieces of the plane they have found. But a video on the Brazilian air force Web site entitled "Vertical Stabilizer Found" shows video of the piece—which keeps the plane's nose from swinging from side to side—being located and tethered to a ship. The part had Air France's blue-and-red stripes, retained its triangular shape and bore no evident burn marks.

Investigators are looking at the possibility that external speed monitors—called Pitot tubes—iced over and gave dangerously false readings to cockpit computers in a thunderstorm.

Peter Goelz, a former managing director of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the faulty airspeed readings and the fact the vertical stabilizer was sheared from the jet could be related—though he cautioned it would need to be determined if the stabilizer was torn off in flight or upon impact in the ocean.

The Airbus A330-200 has a "rudder limiter" which constricts how much the rudder can move at high speeds—if it were to move to far while traveling fast, it could shear off, and take the vertical stabilizer with it as they are attached.

Lebanon vote undercuts Hezbollah, boost for Obama

BEIRUT (AP)—A pro-Western coalition won Lebanon's parliamentary elections Monday, dealing a major setback to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and giving a boost to Barack Obama's Middle East peace policy.

Coming just days after the American president reached out to the Muslim world, the vote undercuts the most militant force in Lebanese politics.

It was the first major political test in the Middle East since Obama's groundbreaking address last week, in which he challenged the Islamic world to confront violent extremism and urged Israel and the Arabs to find common ground to establish peace.

Official results, announced Monday, may also set the stage for renewed political deadlock in this sharply polarized, volatile Arab nation. The results mirrored the breakdown of the outgoing parliament, meaning many of the questions that have dogged the fractious nation, such as what to do with Hezbollah's many weapons, remain.

Still, the outcome was cause for relief for many in the West and eased the apprehension of some of America's moderate Arab allies.

"Once more, the people of Lebanon have demonstrated to the world their courage and the strength of their commitment to democracy," Obama said in a congratulatory statement that made no reference to Hezbollah.

Congratulations also came from the U.N. and Arab League chiefs and the leaders of France, Egypt and Jordan. Israel, which warned ahead of the elections that a Hezbollah victory could further destabilize the Middle East, appeared relieved.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gabon's president dies after 42 years in power

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP)—Omar Bongo, the world's longest-serving president whose 42-year rule of Gabon was a throwback to an era when Africa was ruled by "Big Men," died Monday. He was 73. The government responded to Bongo's death at a hospital in Spain by closing Gabon's international airport and the nation's land and sea borders. Security forces took up positions in front of government buildings and electrical installations in Libreville, the capital. People rushed home after the news was announced, causing traffic jams. Some residents could be seen hurrying out with empty bags, apparently to stock up on food in advance of possible store closures.

Gunmen throw grenades in Acapulco, 3 police killed

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen launched grenades and opened fire in near simultaneous attacks on two police stations in Acapulco Monday, killing three officers in violence that broke out less than 48 hours after a gunbattle in the resort left 17 dead. The bold, pre-dawn attacks Monday also wounded one police officer in this Pacific resort city, which has long been plagued by drug violence. Gunmen fatally shot two officers sitting in a patrol car parked outside one police station. A few minutes later, assailants attacked a second station, about two miles (three kilometers) away, wounding two officers, according to the Guerrero state police department. One of the officers later died.

Peru Indian leader seeks Nicaragua exile

LIMA, Peru (AP)—A Peruvian Indian leader charged with sedition for heading protests against Amazon development has sought refuge in Nicaragua's Embassy and is seeking asylum, the government said Monday. Alberto Pizango led protests that erupted in violence Friday when police moved in to break up a highway blockade manned by Indians. The clashes left dozens dead, including 23 police officers. Protest leaders accused the government of "genocide" for killing indigenous demonstrators, while the government accused the protesters of brutality and ordered Pizango's arrest for sedition.

Campus Life

MBA has 2 valedictorians, 2 salutatorians

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CHRISTINA KWON LEE
Valedictorian

FRANK SHING CHUN YEUNG
Valedictorian

SUNG HEE AN
Salutatorian

SO YOUNG LEE
Salutatorian

Marianas Baptist Academy named two valedictorians and two salutatorians in its 22nd commencement exercises held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Friday.

Christina Kwon Lee and Frank Shing Chun Yeung emerged as this year's top honorees, achieving the highest academic recognition as class valedictorians.

Lee will pursue an education degree at Emory University while Yeung was accepted to the University of California Los Angeles where she will pursue a business course.

Sung Hee An and So Young Lee were named the school's salutatorians during the graduation ceremony attended by over a hundred spectators and guests.

Hee An will pursue a degree in English literature in UCLA this fall while Young Lee will go to the University of Southern California to take up a biology course.

MBA promoted 16 twelfth graders and 8 middle school students this year.

Three high school students were bestowed the leadership awards: Maria Carmen Cabrera, Seong Bin Lee, and Dencio Manet Manglona.

Christina Kwon Lee and Sarah Lee were adjudged the school's journalism awardees.

MBA Principal Ramir Trinidad, along with the school faculty and officials, also acknowledged eight graders Se Young Hwang and Young Eun Lee; and 12th grader Frank Shing Chun Yeung who topped in the Principal's List awards.

Nine students were given loyalty awards: Maria Carmen Cabrera, Xiao Tian Falig, Christina Kwon Lee, Sarah Lee, So Young Lee, You-Mi Lee, Jesse Kilili Sablan, Frank Shing Chun Yeung, and Debora Yoon.

Eight graders on the A Honor roll included Chae Won Hwang, Jee Hui Hwang, Na Eun Kim, and Yoon Hyee Park.

A Honor awards were also bestowed on high school graduates Sung Hee An, Christina Kwon Lee, So Young Lee, and Debora Yoon.

On the B honor list were Hwi Hyeong Lee and Joseph Dionicio Torres.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan served as the event's guest speaker.

Bandales, Manabat are San Vicente's top awardees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twelve-year-olds Joann Bandales and Ann Jeline Manabat were awarded San Vicente Elementary's top educational honors yesterday. They received the highest academic recognitions as Commissioner's and Principal's awardees, respectively.

Their awards were presented at the SES promotional ceremony held at the Saipan World Resort. A total of 115 sixth graders were promoted to junior high school.

Bandales also received six other special recognitions including the President's Excellence Award and Best in language Arts, Science, Math, Social Studies, and Bilingual Class.

She is the daughter of Juanita and John Bandales.

"Congratulations are not only for us, but to you, our teachers, parents and families because our success is your success. You have given us the freedom to dare, the courage to excel, and the belief that we can achieve our best," she told the crowd.

Bandales will attend junior high school at Hopwood.

The second top awardee, Manabat, also received other special recognitions. She is the daughter of Josephine and Albert Manabat.

"I am truly proud of what I achieved… and I thanked my parents for always being there for me," she told *Saipan Tribune* after the ceremony.

The school faculty also awarded Solomon Ko with the teacher's award.

JOANN BANDALES
Commissioner's Award

ANN JELINE MANABAT
Principal's Award

Yesterday's ceremony saw the attendance of hundreds of parents and supporters, members of the Education Board, and Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who was the event's keynote speaker.

The top five students from each class were as follows:

A-6:
Seo Yoon Solomon Ko
Daa Mying Jeumg
Hatsuko Bearden
Rachel Manzano
Janine Savellano

A-8
Jude Lizama
Jemima Manibusan
Gerald De Guzman
Molena Masga
Norman Tanghal

A-9
Ann Jeline Manabat
Jazmin Rayphand
Mykki Carakut
Clarissa King
Gayatri Nandwani

A-10
Joann Bandales
Jacklyn Garote
Emmanuel Huertas
Nathaniel Cruz
Sarah Fe Dela Cruz

A-11
Shizelle Pua
Sabrina Pangelinan
John Paul Taquero
Benjamin Sebangiol
Shawn Acopiado

Rota Junior High names Calvo, De Guzman, Frazier top students

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The outstanding graduates of Rota Junior High School pose with principal Maria S. Quitugua, right. From left: Principal's Leadership awardee Zahra Frazier, BOE awardee Dana A. Calvo, and Commissioner's awardee Romela De Guzman.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Junior High School named three students as this year's outstanding graduates during Friday's promotions ceremony on campus.

Dana A. Calvo led the batch of 51 junior high graduates as the school's Board of Education awardee and was named recipient of six other special recognitions, including the President's Excellence Award and Best in Math, Science, Reading, and Social Studies.

Calvo, 13, is the daughter of Annette and David Calvo.

"I am so happy to receive all these awards and I thank my parents and teachers for all their support. This will never be possible without them," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Calvo, who plans to move to the U.S. mainland to continue her high school, intends to get a degree in business management.

Named second top graduate during the ceremony was Romela De Guzman, recipient of the Commissioner's Award, which was personally presented by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Romela was raised by her hardworking father, Romy De Guzman.

This year's Principal's Leadership Award went to Zahra Frazier, the daughter of Lydia Frazier.

In her message, Rota Junior High School principal Maria Quitugua emphasized the importance of education in achieving one's goal.

"I just want them to continue on…because one achievement leads to another. I encourage all the graduates to continue their education and we thank them for spending their three years of success in Rota Junior High," the principal told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 50-minute occasion was also graced by Education Board member Tanya King.

Hands-on science using local resources

By VALRICK WELCH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I would like to do a series demonstrating how hands-on science can be taught in the classroom, or home using locally available resources. Each grade level at San Vicente Elementary School did a presentation on a grade-appropriate hands-on science activity during a workshop held at the Pacific Islands Club. The following was presented by teachers from three different Kindergarten classes:

Students with their science materials ready to begin the activity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Title of Lesson: Standard Based Science Instruction Tropical Fruit Salad from Our Own Backyard

Presenters: Mrs. Fe Cabrera, Mrs. Turiana Welch, Mrs. Barbara Macduff, Sinorita Stephanie De Leon Guerrero, and Mohana Hopkins

CNMI Standard 1: Students understand the nature and process of scientific inquiry and use scientific inquiry and scientific thinking skills to explore the world around them.

Benchmark: 1.k.2 Know and use the five senses to make observations about objects and events (i.e. hearing, sight, taste, touch, smell)

■ Hearing: Students are listening attentively to which ingredients are being added.

■ Sight: Students notice the different appearances of fruits that have been cut up. Some fruits turn brown while most do not change color.

■ Taste: It tastes creamy, sweet, cold, crunchy, and delicious!

■ Touch: Some fruits feel soft, or hard, stringy, slippery, poky, smooth, or mushy.

■ Smell: Oh, how delicious it smells! We can smell it from a long way off.

This activity was integrated with reading the story *The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear.*

Making Our Tropical Fruit Salad

Materials: Fruits found in our backyard (mango, papaya, star and mountain banana, apple, orange, tangerine) cream cheese, condensed mild, bowl, spoon, disposable gloves, plastic plates, styrofoam cups, plastic spoons and knives.

Steps to preparing our Tropical Fruit Salad

■ First, we cut up the fruits.
■ Then we mix it up.
■ Last we eat it.

The Kindergarten class from Kagman Elementary School presented their hands-on activity for teaching the water cycle. The students were given ice and told to feel it and observe what happens to it. Then the students did the same activity outside, but put the ice on the sidewalk where they saw how much faster ice melts on the sidewalk compared to inside the classroom. They then watched as the water left by the ice disappeared and asked the question, "Where did it go?"

All of the presenting teachers responded that hands-on activities keep their students highly engaged, improve understanding and retention of the taught standards and benchmarks, and that there is very little student behavior problems.

Life & Style

The Kurt & Rochelle nuptials

Kurt Sablan and Rochelle Jimenez tied the knot on May 22 this year at the Mount Carmel Church in a dreamy wedding that culminated with a bang at the sumptuous Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

The reception was attended by hundreds and hundreds of island residents who wished the new couple a long and happy life. In keeping with the color motif, the Royal Taga Ballroom was awash with hot pink, green and purple flowers and the bride herself had a bouquet of pink lilies.

The highlight of the event was the special dance number of Kurt and Rochelle, as choreographed by Ernie Molina, which had the entire crowd up on their feet and applauding.

The wine and beer flowed, the tables groaned under the weight of all the food, the newlyweds glowed, and the guests danced the night away, celebrating and sharing in the new couple's happiness as they embark on a new life.

Aykroyd hopes to scare up 'Ghostbusters' again

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

I'd like it to be a passing-of-the-torch movie," Dan Aykroyd says of a third "Ghostbusters."

HOLLYWOOD—Dan Aykroyd has waited two decades for the "Ghostbusters" film franchise to come back from Hollywood's great beyond, and now it's so close he can feel it in his bones.

"I'm just waiting for that magic phone call," Aykroyd said with a wistful smile. "One day, the producer calls you and says, 'We have a production number,' and that's the real green light. And it's coming soon, I hope. ... We could be in production by winter."

No Hollywood moneymaking franchise every really gives up the ghost (just ask Indiana Jones), but 25 years have passed since the first "Ghostbusters" film and 20 since its lone sequel, and there's reason to wonder whether the franchise's quaint paranormal high jinks would even appeal to a "Harry Potter" generation accustomed to more sophisticated spookery.

Still, Aykroyd and Columbia Pictures are true believers when it comes to the franchise's 21st century afterlife, and one of the main reasons is the upcoming "Ghostbusters: The Video Game," a fact that says plenty about the changing physics of the modern entertainment marketplace.

On June 16, Atari will release the much-anticipated "Ghostbusters" title, which has taken on a mythical aura for gamers after years of delays, a budget north of $12 million and the number of times the property changed hands before landing at troubled Atari. Still, there is intense consumer interest in the game (especially since the maneuvers required to "trap" ghosts lend themselves to some novel game play), and it brought together the core of the original cast for voice work—two facts that have restarted the dormant "Ghostbusters" film machinery.

Ivan Reitman, producer and director of the two films, said the video game essentially hit the restart button on the franchise.

"The game itself, and the quick acceptance and intense interest in it, reminded all the creative participants that we have something special here," he said recently. "I think the game, along with the anniversary of the first movie and the Blu-ray release of the two movies (on June 16), all of it reminded us that it's kind of silly that we're not being more active about it."

"Ghostbusters" as a property is controlled by a five-way partnership: Columbia Pictures, Reitman and three of the stars—Bill Murray, Aykroyd and Harold Ramis. Each has a veto on a new project. Now, for the first time, all five think a third movie should be made. There's some agreement on a plot that involves the original stars, joined by a "new generation" of paranormal investigators.

Within the next month, a script is due from "The Office" writing tandem of Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky, the same scribes behind the upcoming Ramis-directed comedy "Year One." It's not clear whether Reitman would direct or whether Ramis, the director of "Groundhog Day" and "Caddyshack," would step in.

"We're going to read the script, and, really, nothing has happened or will happen until then," Reitman said. "It's just talk until then."

Perhaps, but Aykroyd, who co-wrote the two movies with Ramis, is already under the spell of the venture. Sitting on an outdoor balcony recently at the Sunset Strip House of Blues (a chain he co-founded), the 56-year-old "Saturday Night Live" alumnus couldn't disguise his excitement.

"I'd like it to be a passing-of-the-torch movie," he said. "Let's revisit the old characters briefly and happily and have them there as family, but let's pass it on to a new generation."

Then, with his familiar deadpan delivery, he added that the creaky stars of the original movie just can't sling their proton packs the way they used to.

"We've all got hip replacements, shoulder stitches, Harold's eyesight is failing, I can't drive anymore. ... "

For years, "Ghostbusters" stood as the most successful franchise in Columbia's long history (Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man" films now hold that title), with the first film pulling in $292 million worldwide and the sequel adding $215 million. In 2008, a reader poll by Entertainment Weekly ranked "Ghostbusters" as the best comedy of the previous 25 years, and the movies have been perennial strong performers on home video.

But is that magic still there? Aykroyd pointed to last year's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" as an example of how a 1980s brand can be updated successfully (and, he noted, the alien skulls "reminded me of the Coneheads"). The fedora revival received decidedly mixed reviews, but it also pulled in a robust $787 million worldwide. Aykroyd has revisited other past glories (some fans may remember the 1993 film "Coneheads"; most would like to forget "Blues Brothers 2000"), but Murray has been far more standoffish.

As Reitman put it: "I think he's always been the most careful about employment. I think he's the most enigmatic of us and the most hard to reach among us."

That Murray lent his voice to the video game project was a major turning point, considering he had been frosty to the franchise after the 1989 sequel left a sour taste in his mouth. ("He actually showed up and did it," Aykroyd said of the voice work, "so that's a miracle.")

Murray could not be reached for comment for this article, but at a news conference last year in New York for the film "City of Ember," he expressed a newfound cheer about the franchise that solidified his stardom in the 1980s.

"The wounds of 'Ghostbusters II' are healed," the wry Murray said. He added: "We did a sequel, and it was sort of rather unsatisfying for me, because the first one to me was the goods. It was the real thing. And the sequel ... the special-effects guys got it and got their hands on it. And it was just not the same movie. There were a few great scenes in it, but it wasn't the same movie."

Despite the public perception, Aykroyd said he's not mad at Murray for holding up a third chapter in the franchise.

"I don't put not making the third movie on Billy ... you can't blame an artist for not wanting to do the same thing again. He did two of them, for God's sake. Although I'm the biggest cheerleader, as the originator of the concept, I've never begrudged Billy not doing a third movie."

Murray also had positive things to say last year about the new screenwriting duo, but it's of course possible that he might read the new script and decide to pass on this entire cinematic seance. Aykroyd hopes not; he's already doing some cast daydreaming—he'd like to see Alyssa Milano (who lends her voice to a character in the video game) and Eliza Dushku of "Dollhouse" as the first female Ghostbusters. "I think they're amazing," he said. "And I'm excited about the whole idea of getting this done."

You could almost hear Ray Parker Jr. singing the familiar theme song as Aykroyd smiled and said: "I'm just waiting for that phone call."

Singer-songwriter Kenny Rankin dead of lung cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kenny Rankin, a brilliant pop vocalist and highly regarded musician-songwriter whose stylings ranged from jazz to pop to the world music influences he picked up as a child in New York, has died of complications related to lung cancer, his record company announced Monday. He was 69.

Rankin died Sunday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Mack Avenue Records spokesman Don Lucoff said.

The musician, who first gained acclaim as one of the guitarists on Bob Dylan's landmark 1965 album, "Bringing it all Back Home," had been preparing to record an album of new material when he became ill a few weeks ago. Recording sessions scheduled with producer Phil Ramone were canceled as his health began to deteriorate.

"That he was still at the top of his game is one of the saddest parts of his passing for me," Denny Stilwell, president of Mack Avenue Records, said in a statement. "He performed the new material in our office over the last few months and his voice was still in its finest form—he sounded absolutely amazing. Our hearts and prayers are with his family."

Rankin wrote and recorded the pop standard "Peaceful" and also wrote "In The Name of Love," which was recorded by Peggy Lee, and "Haven't We Met," performed by Carmen McRae and Mel Torme.

His own "The Kenny Rankin Album" was recorded live in 1976 with a 60-piece orchestra.

Rankin, who signed with Decca Records while still in his teens, once said his music career really began in the fourth grade when he sang "O Holy Night" in a school Christmas play and his teacher walked up to him afterward, patted him on the head and said, "Kenneth, that was lovely."

"She set me on the path in music that I find myself on today," he said.

After signing with Decca in the late 1950s he released a handful of singles before moving on to Columbia Records, also the home of Dylan. There, he took part in the recording of "Bringing it All Back Home," the album in which Dylan moved firmly from an all-acoustic folk music sound to an electric mixture of pop and rock 'n' roll.

Soon after, he made his first appearance on "The Tonight Show," where he impressed host Johnny Carson so much that Carson contributed liner notes to Rankin's first album, 1967's "Mind Dusters." Other albums included "Family," "Like a Seed," "Inside and "Silver Morning:"

He would go on to appear as Carson's "Tonight Show" guest more than 20 times.

His supple tenor voice on such recordings as "Spanish Harlem," "'Round Midnight" and the Beatles' "Blackbird" and "I've Just a Face" also won him the respect of fellow musicians as a singer's singer.

Mack Records said he so impressed the Beatles' Paul McCartney that McCartney asked him to perform "Blackbird" when he and songwriting partner John Lennon were inducted into the Songwriters Hall Of Fame.

Rankin spent much of the past 20 years touring, although he returned to the studio in the mid-1990s to release a pair of albums, "Professional Dreamer" and "Here In My Heart." He also released a Christmas album in 1999.

Born in New York City on Feb. 10, 1940, Rankin was raised in the city's Washington Heights neighborhood, where he said he grew up listening to a broad spectrum of music, including Afro-Cuban, jazz, Top 40 and Brazilian.

He is survived by his son, Chris Rankin, daughters Chanda Rankin and Jena Rankin-Ray and a granddaughter.

His record label said funeral arrangements are pending.

AP

This 2006 photo released by DL Media shows Kenny Rankin in Los Angeles.

'Hangover' takes down 'Up' for top box-office spot

AP

In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Zach Galifianakis, left, Bradley Cooper, center, and Ed Helms are shown in a scene from "The Hangover."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood had a bigger hangover this weekend than expected.

The Warner Bros. comedy "The Hangover" drew larger audiences than earlier projected to raise its weekend ticket sales to $45 million, about $1.8 million more than the studio estimated Sunday.

That made it the No. 1 draw for the weekend instead of Disney and Pixar Animation's "Up," which came in second with $44.1 million. Sunday studio estimates had "Up" edging "The Hangover" by about $1 million.

It's rare that the first- and second-place movies on Sunday flip-flop when final numbers come out Monday. But strong attendance Sunday allowed "The Hangover" to pull ahead.

With heavy matinee traffic, family films such as "Up" usually hold on better through Sunday than adult movies like "The Hangover."

Warner Bros. had expected Sunday's National Basketball Association playoff game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Orlando Magic to cut into business for the R-rated "The Hangover," the tale of four friends at an out-of-control bachelor party weekend in Las Vegas.

Yet more people turned up for the movie than anticipated, said Dan Fellman, Warner head of distribution.

"The Lakers weren't the only winners," Fellman said. "We had an unbelievable day."

Disney spokeswoman Heidi Trotta said the studio was happy to finish at No. 2 with "Up," whose final weekend total came in about $100,000 lower than the studio estimated Sunday.

"Up" has topped $137 million in just 10 days and is on track to become the latest $200 million blockbuster from Disney and Pixar, whose hits include "WALL-E," "The Incredibles," "Finding Nemo" and the "Toy Story" movies.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. "The Hangover," Warner Bros., $44,979,319, 3,269 locations, $13,759 average, $44,979,319, one week.

2. "Up," Disney, $44,138,266, 3,818 locations, $11,561 average, $137,210,701, two weeks.

3. "Land of the Lost," Universal, $18,837,350, 3,521 locations, $5,350 average, $18,837,350, one week.

4. "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian," Fox, $14,634,988, 3,807 locations, $3,844 average, $127,326,188, three weeks.

5. "Star Trek," Paramount, $8,310,480, 3,202 locations, $2,595 average, $222,712,175, five weeks.

6. "Terminator Salvation," Warner Bros., $8,248,387, 3,304 locations, $2,496 average, $105,568,008, three weeks.

7. "Drag Me to Hell," Universal, $7,040,550, 2,510 locations, $2,805 average, $28,233,230, two weeks.

8. "Angels & Demons," Sony, $6,550,282, 2,925 locations, $2,239 average, $116,174,931, four weeks.

9. "My Life in Ruins," Fox Searchlight, $3,223,161, 1,164 locations, $2,769 average, $3,223,161, one week.

10. "Dance Flick," Paramount, $1,958,725, 1,707 locations, $1,147 average, $22,625,733, three weeks.

11. "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," Fox, $1,927,096, 1,389 locations, $1,387 average, $174,347,386, six weeks.

12. "Ghosts of Girlfriends Past," Warner Bros., $932,181, 879 locations, $1,061 average, $51,919,132, six weeks.

13. "The Brothers Bloom," Summit, $412,771, 173 locations, $2,386 average, $2,025,712, four weeks.

14. "Fast & Furious," Universal, $286,795, 284 locations, $1,010 average, $154,356,665, 10 weeks.

15. "Monsters vs. Aliens," Paramount, $270,873, 313 locations, $865 average, $194,854,481, 11 weeks.

16. "The Soloist," Paramount, $264,531, 306 locations, $864 average, $30,726,123, seven weeks.

17. "Race to Witch Mountain," Disney, $259,716, 250 locations, $1,039 average, $66,200,577, 13 weeks.

18. "Obsessed," Sony Screen Gems, $258,092, 318 locations, $812 average, $68,032,027, seven weeks.

19. "17 Again," Warner Bros., $212,805, 222 locations, $959 average, $61,605,717, eight weeks.

20. "Hannah Montana: The Movie," Disney, $210,014, 207 locations, $1,015 average, $77,893,713, nine weeks.

Miley Cyrus movie starts filming in Ga. next week

TYBEE ISLAND, Ga. (AP)—Tybee Island has landed a starring role in the new Miley Cyrus movie, and audiences seeing the film next year won't have to wait for the credits to find out the name of the beach town filling the screen.

Location managers for the movie "The Last Song," which starts filming on Tybee next week, told residents at a town meeting Monday that the island proved too unique to masquerade as Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

Novelist Nicholas Sparks, who wrote the movie's script, initially set the story in Wrightsville and Wilmington, N.C. But filmmakers persuaded him to change the location to Tybee Island and neighboring Savannah so they could include local landmarks such as the island's towering lighthouse and the oak-shaded squares in Savannah's historic district.

"We had a hard time trying to hide the fact that this was Tybee and Savannah was Savannah," Bass Hampton, the film's location director, told about 80 residents at Tybee city hall.

The movie features 16-year-old Cyrus, the star of "Hannah Montana," as a teenage girl struggling with her parents' divorce who tries to reconnect with her father during a summer at his home in a quiet beach town.

Filming starts Monday on Tybee Island, 12 miles east of Savannah, and is expected to stretch into mid-August.

The Walt Disney Co. had considered making the film in North Carolina, but ultimately chose Georgia because the state offered a better incentive package. Local officials estimate the production will bring $8 million in direct spending to the area during the next two months.

Matt Lauer ready for his new catch-phrase

NEW YORK (AP)—Following his cameo with Will Ferrell in the new movie "Land of the Lost," NBC's Matt Lauer had better get used to being part of a new catchphrase.

"For the past 10 years I have walked down the street to a chorus of 'Where in the world is Matt Lauer?'" he said, "and I'm thoroughly convinced that starting June 5 that will change to 'Matt Lauer can suck it.'"

Lauer

Lauer's role in the movie isn't a stretch. He plays Matt Lauer, "Today" show host, interviewing Ferrell's character, scientist Rick Marshall, who wrote a book about his theories on time travel.

It doesn't go well. Marshall rips off his microphone and stomps off the set when Lauer asks for a response to physicist Stephen Hawking's characterization of the theories as "nonsense."

Lauer quickly moves on, turning to the camera and saying, "when we come back, trampolines—summer fun or silent killer?" Marshall storms back to attack him, and Lauer grabs a fire extinguisher to subdue him.

Marshall shouts the catchphrase, "Matt Lauer can suck it," later in the movie when his theories have proven true.

Lauer was approached about the role about a year ago by his executive producer, Jim Bell, and "I just thought it sounded like a hoot," he said.

It was filmed on the "Today" show set in New York, with much of the backstage staff he's familiar with. Lauer said he generally followed the script, with a few tweaks to better reflect his voice.

"These people are really talented, these comic actors," he said. "Their timing is just impeccable and I viewed my job as to just not screw up his timing."

Purists might wonder whether a job as a movie actor is something a prominent journalist should avoid, something Lauer said never worried him. He doesn't mind laughing at himself and having others laugh at him.

There's hardly a clear dividing line: In the 1970s, Walter Cronkite appeared as himself in an episode of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." One of Lauer's competitors, Julie Chen of "The Early Show" on CBS, is also host of the entertainment program "Big Brother."

If someone believes a few minutes acting in a comedy means he's no longer worthy of attention as a journalist, "I think that's overreacting and overthinking," he said.

In real life, Lauer's never had any one storm off the stage on the air. One prominent female newsmaker bolted quickly without a word the instant a commercial break came on. (He won't name her.) As for whether he's been tempted to use a fire extinguisher on anyone, well, Lauer won't go there.

Given that Lauer's scenes are featured prominently in trailers for the movie that have been running for the past few months, it's evident that producers enjoyed his work. The Associated Press movie critic Christy Lemire praised Lauer's comic timing and said his scenes were the only funny ones in the film.

Rapper DMX avoids more Ariz. jail time for assault

PHOENIX (AP)—Rapper DMX was sentenced Monday to more than a year of probation, avoiding more time in Arizona jails after spending two years in and out of the state's legal system.

DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, pleaded guilty in May to attempted aggravated assault after authorities said he threw a meal tray at a jail officer. He had been in jail serving a sentence for felony theft, drug possession and animal cruelty and was released in May after nearly 80 days in custody.

DMX

In the latest incident, he was sentenced in Maricopa County Superior Court to 18 months of supervised probation and ordered to pay various fines and fees. He also was credited with time served and was allowed to serve his probation and undergo a counseling program in Florida, where he planned to return.

"Don't misunderstand me. It's a beautiful state, it's a beautiful city. But the powers that be have it out for me. It kind of taints my view," he said.

Simmons and his lawyer said they were satisfied with the outcome of the plea agreement.

"I think even the court wants the best for him," said attorney Glenn Allen.

Simmons said he planned to work on a new album. The 38-year-old "Year of the Dog ... Again" rapper has also starred in movies such as "Romeo Must Die" and "Exit Wounds."

In 2007, Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies raided his north Phoenix home, where they seized several pit bulls, weapons and marijuana. In 2008, he was arrested for speeding on a Phoenix freeway and Maricopa County authorities later alleged Simmons went to a Scottsdale clinic and gave a false name to receive care with the intent of not paying.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said in a statement that he was disappointed by Simmons' sentence Monday, adding: "The fact that the court gave him what amounts to about two weeks' time for assaulting an officer is a farce."

Bret Michaels suffers nose fracture and busted lip

NEW YORK (AP)—Bret Michaels performed at the Tony Awards, and all he got was a nose fracture—and a busted lip. According to Michaels' spokeswoman, the rock singer had X-rays taken after getting clocked in the head by a descending set piece at Sunday's Radio City Music Hall ceremony. Publicist Joann Mignano says Michaels, who performed with his 1980s hair-metal band Poison, fractured his nose and had to get three stitches in his lip. She says he was getting a CAT scan on Monday as a precaution, as he's had a past neck injury.

Although he's "pretty bruised up," Mignano says, Michaels was in good spirits. He wiped off blood with a towel and laughed backstage when host Neil Patrick Harris joked that the singer "gave head banging a whole new meaning."

Michaels took to the stage with Poison during the telecast's opening production number, featuring performances from the season's Broadway musicals.

They performed "Nothin' But a Good Time" with the cast of "Rock of Ages," and as Michaels exited the stage, he smacked into a piece of scenery and was knocked to the ground upon impact. Footage of the accident soon landed online, where Michaels' pratfall seemed to score as much attention as the prestigious ceremony itself.

AP

Bret Michaels, right and C.C. DeVille of the band Poison perform with the cast of "Rock of Ages" at the 63rd Annual Tony Awards in New York, Sunday, June 7, 2009.

Michaels had a "great time performing for the Broadway audience," says Mignano, who notes that the star of VH1's "Rock of Love" reality series took photos backstage with theater legends Liza Minnelli and Angela Lansbury.

Michaels, who has gone solo, is touring with his namesake band. Later this month, he'll take Poison on the road for a joint tour with Def Leppard and Cheap Trick.

Tonys should aid success of 'Billy' and 'Carnage'

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony wins should strengthen even more the box-office appeal of "Billy Elliot" and "God of Carnage," already two of Broadway's biggest hits.

"It's the cherry on top of the sundae," said producer Ken Davenport about the 10 Tonys for "Billy Elliot," including best musical, and the three for "Carnage," including best play.

"I don't think either one of them needed it," Davenport said Monday. "But obviously, it's great to be able to tout it. For a show like 'Billy,' it's not just winning best musical. It's the amount, the volume of awards that mean a lot."

Ten Tonys for "Billy" is "a huge amount and when people see that quantity, they say, 'Wow. Anything that wins 10 has got to be good,'" added Davenport, producer of the off-Broadway hit "Altar Boyz," and the Broadway revivals of "Blithe Spirit" and "Speed-the-Plow."

Between them, the two shows took nearly half of the 27 competitive Tony Awards given out Sunday night at Radio City Music Hall.

Both "Billy Elliot" and "God of Carnage" have been doing excellent business, particularly the four-character, single-set "Carnage," which has often grossed more each week than big musicals. Its cast of James Gandolfini, Tony winner Marcia Gay Harden, Jeff Daniels and Hope Davis recently re-signed for an additional 10 weeks in the play, which will extend the actors' run into November (after a late summer hiatus).

"Next to Normal," the strongest Tony competitor for "Billy Elliot," managed to take three awards, including two—score and orchestrations—for composer Tom Kitt.

It can now claim in its ads that it has the best new score on Broadway. The double win was especially gratifying for Kitt, whose first Broadway show, "High Fidelity," closed after 13 performances in 2006.

"(Broadway) is my passion, my love," the composer said. "I have been very lucky to be able to do a number of different things. Looking back on the season, I was conducting (the musical) '13' during the first part of the season. I get to work with people on a variety of levels."

"In terms of composing, Brian (Yorkey, lyricist and book writer for 'Next to Normal') and I are hard at work deciding what our next project will be," Kitt said.

The day after the Tonys usually means closing announcements for some shows that go home empty-handed. Already there is one casualty this year.

Best Tony Award ratings since 2006

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony Awards organizers can be pleased about a winning night at the television turnstiles.

Broadway's big night was seen by 7.45 million people. Nielsen Media Research says that's a 19 percent increase over last year's awards show, which had 6.27 million viewers.

Elton John's show "Billy Elliot" won the Tony Award for best musical, and the three young men who play the lead role will share the best actor prize. Neil Patrick Harris was the host of Sunday's show, which was held at Radio City Music Hall. Angela Lansbury, Marcia Gay Harden and Geoffrey Rush also took home trophies.

Nielsen said it was the biggest audience for the Tonys in three years, the second biggest since 2003.

John Travolta thanks colleagues for promoting film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Travolta is thanking his colleagues from "The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3" for promoting the film while he continues to mourn the death of his 16-year-old son, Jett, who died after a seizure in January.

Travolta posted a note on his personal Web site Monday thanking "Pelham" director Tony Scott and co-stars Denzel Washington, John Turturro, Luis Guzman and James Gandolfini for "their unselfish efforts" publicizing the picture, which allowed his family the additional time to reconcile their loss.

Travolta

The 55-year-old actor also thanked Scott for "the freedom to define, and then to become, the ultimate evil mastermind."

Actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr. honored by FBI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Efrem Zimbalist Jr. finally got his badge.

The actor who portrayed cool and canny Inspector Lewis Erskine on the TV series "The F.B.I." was named an honorary special agent Monday—the FBI's highest civilian honor.

The 91-year-old actor was presented with the badge by FBI Director Robert Mueller. He praised Zimbalist as an icon who inspired a generation of FBI agents.

Zimbalist said he was humbled and called the agency America's "guardian."

The show ran on ABC from 1965 to 1974.

Philanderer's wife invites mistress to be her guest

Dear Abby

DEAR READERS: In my many years of involvement with this column (and before), I have heard some creative name-calling and may have even indulged in a few choice words myself. But your scatological creativity in describing "The Other Woman, Anywhere, USA" (March 11) singed my eyebrows to the roots. Some readers thanked me for my reply. Others felt I was too easy on the letter writer. And others ... well, read on:

DEAR ABBY: My husband "works long hours" and frequently attends evening "meetings" or "stag functions." He is "too tired" to notice my negligee and perfume and "too busy" to meet me for lunch or respond to my loving e-mails. When I'm not at my full-time job, I'm the one washing his leftover dishes and dirty socks, cleaning toilets, fixing torn screens, preparing the drywall our kids damaged, unclogging drains and doing the other minor repairs.

He says there's no money for a night out, yet I find dinner receipts for two in his dirty clothes. (The income I bring in must make SOME difference.) I go to bed alone and starved for sex more nights than I can count. Is this the intact marriage "Other Woman" is trying to preserve? She gets the perks while I'm picking up the dirty towels.

Please, TAKE him! Give me my child support and alimony and YOU support this "wonderful" man. Clean up after him and then see how much "quality time" you enjoy, Sweetie!

THE WIFE BACK HOME

DEAR ABBY: May I offer a different perspective? I have more respect for a man who sticks with his family and remains in the house providing support and raising his kids, but finds a sexual relationship outside the home. You want to know what I think is really toxic? A man who stays married and celibate, just letting his resentment fester and build. Try walking a mile in someone else's shoes before passing judgment, lady!

MALE READER IN THE USA

DEAR ABBY: I am a child of an unfaithful marriage. As a pre-teen and teen I often cried and prayed to God for my parents to divorce. Children know when a marriage isn't right. I still mourn for the well-adjusted adult I might have become if I'd had two honest and separate but happy households in which to grow up.

How convenient of "Other Woman" to blame affairs on the wives while overlooking the husband's part in the demise of the marriage. It baffles me that she believes she knows the whole story about her lover's marriage. Please tell her that the only "best friend" her lover has is himself.

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY: I was "The Other Man" for 30 years. I was a teenager and still in high school when I met "Sue." She was in her 20s, gorgeous, and I was earning money mowing lawns. I was a virgin. It started with me rubbing suntan lotion on her back. Her husband was in the military.

One day she told me she was lonely because her husband was gone so much and their 5-year-old was in kindergarten. She asked me to be her "special friend." After high school she paid for me to go to trade school. For 29 years I followed her wherever the military sent her husband. I even had a vasectomy so I wouldn't get her pregnant. I lived my life for her.

Her husband has now retired from the military. She has time for me now maybe once a month. What we had is fading more each week. She is my first and only love, and I'll never find anyone to love as I have loved her, or father children of my own. Is my life worth living?

DEPRESSED OUT WEST

DEAR DEPRESSED: Yes, but it may take counseling to help you realize it. Please don't wait. Your life is worth living. The ability to father a child is not the most important quality many women want in a husband.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

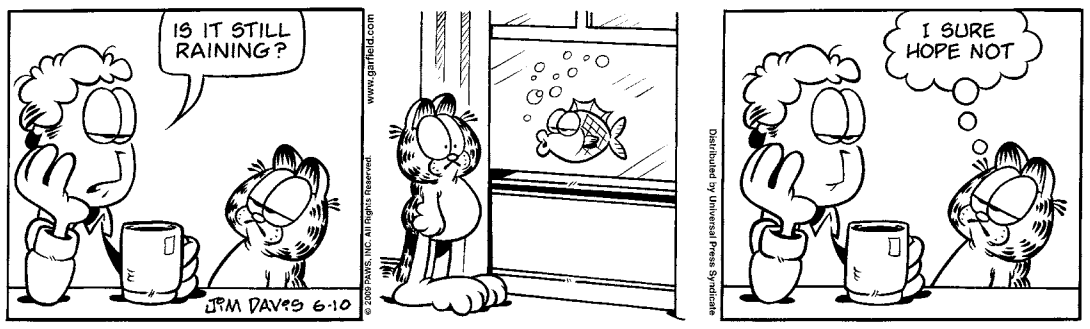
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.
THERE! SOMETHING IS CRASHING THROUGH THE BRUSH!
IT SOUNDS BIG! MAYBE IT'S A BEAR!
THERE ARE BEARS OUT HERE ??
CLIMB THE TREE! CLIMB THE TREE!
IF YOU ASK ME, TIGERS ARE THE ONLY FEROCIOUS ANIMALS THE WORLD REALLY NEEDS.
" BOY, 6, KILLED BY BEAR! PARENTS SAVED THE TROUBLE."
6/10

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD, CAN I HAVE YOUR JERSEYS WHEN YOU DIE?
I DON'T KNOW. I MIGHT DONATE THEM TO A MUSEUM.
HUH? WHAT MUSEUM WOULD TAKE THEM?
OH... I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE ONE IN 'NEW JERSEY'?
BOO. AND THAT DOESN'T REALLY EVEN MAKE SENSE.
THE PUN ISN'T BOUND BY THE LAWS OF LANGUAGE, SON.
THE PUN ROAMS THE COUNTRYSIDE... DISHING OUT JUSTICE... LIKE GEORGE PEPPARD.
ARE YOU SURE YOU ALWAYS WEAR A HELMET WHEN YOU PLAY HOCKEY?
NEWMAN
00

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...
I ASKED YOU TO BREAK A DOLLAR. YOU ONLY GAVE ME THREE QUARTERS.
DON'T YOU FOLLOW THE NEWS? THE DOLLAR ISN'T WORTH WHAT IT USED TO BE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Chicago" lyricist
4 Sailor's septet?
8 Alpha follower
12 Sticky stuff
13 Radius companion
14 Congregant's cry
15 Branch
16 Classic sitcom
18 Opening night
20 Moray, e.g.
21 Mineral-hardness scale name
24 Buzzing instrument
28 Simon & Garfunkel song
32 Carvey or Delany
33 Egg cells
34 Frighten
36 Ultimate, in a way
37 Allen and Conway
39 Uncle Sam's claim
41 Use
43 Old dagger
44 Ball prop
46 Charlie Brown's sister
50 Tony Martin hit
55 Nay undoer
56 Exceptional
57 Stare open-mouthed
58 Aries
59 Culture medium
60 Mongol tent
61 Trio from Cincinnati?

DOWN
1 "Zounds!"
2 Drill
3 Flop on stage
4 "The Bachelorette" contestants
5 Blueprint add-on
6 "I'll take that as —"
7 Rescue
8 Love song
9 Outback bird
10 Sleuth (Sl.)
11 Whatever number
17 "A mouse!"
19 Ms. Thurman
22 Kachina doll maker
23 Garbage barges
25 Wild and crazy
26 Aware of
27 Waikiki locale
28 Greek vowel
29 Tel —
30 One of the Three Bears
31 Zen paradox
35 Israel's legislature
38 Grandma, sometimes
40 Afternoon get-together
42 27-Down souvenir
45 Nervous
47 Muse's instrument
48 Slender
49 Thanksgiving veggies
50 George's brother
51 Joke
52 Historic time
53 Water (Fr.)
54 Spring mo.

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	E	E	■	B	E	T	H	■	M	U	M
M	O	S	T	■	A	G	H	A	■	A	N	A
P	U	S	H	B	R	O	O	M	■	Y	I	N
■	■	■	I	O	N	S	■	L	O	F	T	Y
D	I	S	C	O	■	■	M	E	A	L	■	■
R	O	E	S	■	C	H	A	T	R	O	O	M
A	T	M	■	A	L	B	A	S	■	W	A	Y
B	A	B	Y	B	O	O	M	■	P	E	S	T
■	■	L	A	S	T	■	■	G	A	R	T	H
A	L	A	M	O	■	T	H	A	R	■	■	■
B	I	N	■	L	I	S	A	B	L	O	O	M
L	A	C	■	V	I	A	L	■	A	R	I	A
E	R	E	■	E	I	R	E	■	Y	E	L	P

Yesterday's answer 6-10

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey Zimmerman, 23; Tara Lipinski, 27; Leelee Sobieski, 26; Hoku Ho, 28

Happy Birthday: You have a strong will and can surpass any obstacle that comes your way this year. Don't let the limitations of the past defeat you. You have so much to gain by trying new ways of improving your life. You will make the right choices and do what's best for yourself, your loved ones and the community you live in. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 27, 31, 39, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stay on top of things or someone will take advantage of you. Be prepared to smooth things over and get others moving in a direction compatible to your own. Do what you must with grace and humility. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will do so much better if you can have a conversation with someone in person. A short trip will pay off. You will gain approval in both your personal and professional lives by speaking from the heart. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you are too wrapped up in your own activities and endeavors, you will be unaware of someone or something that could be a roadblock in the near future. Avoid impulsive action or any pressure to make a choice before you are ready. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Hard decisions will be necessary to make. Every moment you lose stagnating will take away from what you can create or do to get ahead. Conflicts must be dealt with. Be a leader and take action. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Open your eyes to new ways of doing things and people and places that inspire you. Don't be led when you should be making up your own mind. An industrious act will bring you respect and popularity. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a course or sign up for lessons that will lead you in a new direction. Your ability to pick up knowledge quickly and combine it with the talent you already possess will lead to success far beyond your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Expect to face a controversial matter with someone close to you. Address emotional issues swiftly. Your ideas or your budget will cause a problem for you as well as for others. Don't speak on behalf of someone else. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may not have all the facts required to make a decision affecting your personal life. A serious discussion can help you solve a conflict you've been having between your work and family obligations. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be looking forward to a change but it won't be easy. When you are forced to deal with problems alone, you will realize how much you depended on someone who isn't there for you anymore. Your willingness to work hard will be an essential part of your success. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Move forward fast and furiously and you will accomplish your dreams. This is a perfect time to initiate changes or renovations, get involved in a real estate deal or make a residential move. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Pick your words carefully. If you offend someone, you may have trouble backtracking in order to save face. Turn challenges or accusations into a forum for expressing your feelings openly and honestly. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your services will be in demand and will help you introduce some of the other talents you have to offer. Someone you used to know may want a piece of your action. Be reluctant to share information until you know what's being offered in return. ✪✪✪✪

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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	5	2					
7				6		9	8	
6			4		7			
2		9		1	6			
	7		8	3		2		
		8	7		2	5		
	8			2	3		7	5
	1					3	2	
						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	4	3	5	1	8	6	2
5	6	3	8	2	7	1	9	4
2	1	8	9	6	4	5	7	3
6	5	9	2	4	8	3	1	7
1	3	2	6	7	9	4	5	8
8	4	7	1	3	5	9	2	6
7	8	1	4	9	2	6	3	5
3	9	5	7	8	6	2	4	1
4	2	6	5	1	3	7	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA **Solution: 9 letters**

M	C	N	W	O	T	K	A	O	R	A	C	L	E	C
O	R	D	N	A	E	L	N	A	S	L	L	I	H	R
N	S	H	W	E	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	F	E
T	D	R	R	O	W	E	X	P	O	K	A	A	R	A
C	N	C	E	(P)	O	A	C	S	I	C	N	N	U	M
L	A	M	(O)	T	A	D	T	A	S	A	Y	I	I	P
A	L	(R)	U	E	N	A	M	E	P	J	K	C	T	H
I	(T)	P	F	E	T	U	M	I	R	S	C	N	V	I
R	A	I	T	E	S	E	H	E	N	F	O	E	A	T
E	L	E	S	E	T	I	T	D	N	S	R	R	L	H
M	F	D	U	Y	O	O	L	O	A	O	T	O	E	E
M	L	M	L	T	N	D	A	O	R	E	L	E	N	A
A	A	O	W	I	E	E	F	A	C	M	H	H	R	T
H	G	N	N	C	A	E	G	D	I	R	K	C	O	R
I	A	T	I	A	M	S	H	O	R	E	L	I	N	E

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Aerospace, Amphitheatre, City, Coliseum, Cream, Creek, Encinal, Expo, Flag, Flatlands, Fruitvale, Hammer, Headhunters, Hills, Jack, Language, Life, Mai Tai, McAfee, Montclair, Museum, Oaktown, Ohlone, Oracle, Piedmont, Port, Road, Rockridge, Rocky, Sail, San Leandro, Shoreline, States, Stone, Temescal, Toni, Waterfront, Woodminster

Yesterday's Answer: Prestige

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Date of Birth: Dec. 1, 1978

If found, please call
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LOST PASSPORT

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Type of Passport: China
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 Closing Date: Monday, June 22, 2009

JVA No. 09-017	Trades Assistant (Three positions)
JVA No. 09-018	Trades Technician (Three positions)
JVA No. 09-019	Trades Specialist (Electrician, One position)

Location: Water Wastewater Division, Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2009 Closing Date: Thursday, June 18, 2009

JVA No. 09-020	Meter Reader (Two positions)
JVA No. 09-021	Accounting Technician (Two positions)

Location: Billing Section, Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 Closing Date: Until Filled

JVA No. 09-023	Information Technology Specialist (One position)
JVA No. 09-024	Information Technology Manager (One position)

Location: Administration, Saipan.

For information on the duties and minimum qualifications, please stop by the Human Resources Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

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Saipan Tribune

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Lakers come to Orlando, look to make Magic vanish

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Kobe Bryant has changed his look.

Gone is the teeth-baring, nose-flaring, eyes-on-the-prize scowl that the Los Angeles Lakers star showed again and again in Game 1 of the NBA finals. The intensity diminished after Game 2, his expression morphing into one of relief and sheer luck.

A botched layup by Magic rookie Courtney Lee is perhaps the biggest reason why these finals are not tied and why Bryant isn't smiling even with his team up 2-0. That level of seriousness might be cause for Orlando to grimace.

The Magic nearly returned from Los Angeles with the best-of-seven series tied. Instead, they're down 2-0, and now Bryant has a promise for Game 3 on Tuesday night.

"We're about to kick it up," he said. "You'd better believe it. We're close. You see what I'm saying? This is the finals. We're going to be ready to go."

For all the bravado, the Lakers can be careless, a team with holes and an inability to finish off an opponent as a champion must. They let Houston extend a series despite the absence of Yao Ming. Denver outmuscled and outhustled a Lakers team that seemed to lose its enthusiasm until Game 6 of the conference finals.

Los Angeles believes those days are over.

"We're playing tougher," forward Pau Gasol said. "We understand what it takes to go get the championship."

This is a franchise closing in on its 15th title. It is facing Magic team still searching for its first finals victory. Bryants insists this is no time to get comfortable.

"What's there to be happy about?" he asked. "The job's not finished."

AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) points to a player behind him after making a basket in the closing seconds against the Orlando Magic in Game 2 of the NBA basketball finals, Sunday, June 7, 2009, in Los Angeles.

The Magic have had their shots—one in particular—to change the series.

Lee missed a wide-open, alley-oop layup that would have won Game 2 at the fourth-quarter buzzer Sunday night. It was another chapter in a long history of Magic misery, one that now has them 0-6 in finals games.

Call it the "alley-oops." This mistake, however, might hurt the most.

Orlando has been able to come back from seemingly every heartbreak this season—injuries, four last-second losses in the playoffs and series deficits in two rounds. But this could be too tough a challenge. Only three teams have won a title after losing the first two games in the finals, most recently Miami over Dallas in 2006.

"We've just got to go home and take care of business," Magic center Dwight Howard said. "The Lakers did a good job of protecting their home, and now it's our turn to do the same thing. We've been in some tough situations. We've just got to fight our way out."

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy led the Heat to start that 2005-06 season before stepping aside. He was still on the Heat payroll helping Pat Riley from afar.

"Dallas never won another game," Van Gundy said. "You know, series can change."

The Magic would need quite a turnaround. Their backcourt has been dreadful. Rafer Alston and Jameer Nelson, who returned for the finals after being out since early February because of shoulder surgery, were so inconsistent that Van Gundy benched them for most of the fourth quarter to have 6-foot-10 forward Hedo Turkoglu run the point.

The Magic had 20 turnovers, just 22 assists and no true ballhandler to make the Lakers pay for double-teaming Howard. With Nelson coming off the bench in place of reliable reserve Anthony Johnson and Alston having already said he wasn't pleased with his minutes in Game 1, Van Gundy might face another dilemma.

"We were just trying to see if we could get somebody out there who would make shots off of the double teams and off the pick-and-rolls and things like that," Van Gundy said. "I thought our guys fought hard, but we couldn't make enough plays. And the 20 turnovers crushed us."

The Lakers know the Magic, too, could change in a moment.

One of the streakiest teams in the league all season, Orlando has shot well at home. It plays with a carefree attitude, and Bryant says that's reason to be wary.

"This is a very loosey-goosey team we're playing against," he said. "You seen some of the shots they hit. Those are tough shots—supposed to be tough shots. For them it's like shooting fish in a barrel. They're just thinking about Game 3, and so are we."

Possible deadline for Favre if he wants to play

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings reportedly have told Brett Favre to decide this week if he wants to play this year. Coach Brad Childress imposed the deadline on the star quarterback, according to ESPN. The network cited two unidentified sources Monday on its Web site. The Sirius NFL Radio network, however, reported later Monday without citing a source that a deadline is not in place.

When Favre retired in February for the second time, he blamed a partially torn biceps tendon for his poor play late in the season for the New York Jets. The three-time NFL MVP said his health was the main reason behind his decision.

With the Vikings interested in bringing him back for a 19th season, however, Favre has reportedly been considering a comeback contingent on the full healing of his throwing arm.

ESPN has reported Favre had arthroscopic surgery sometime in May on his ailing right shoulder, but that it hasn't responded. The report said the 39-year-old wouldn't return to the game unless he feels better.

Time could be running out for that.

The Vikings have another series of organized team activities this week, through Thursday, but only two more scheduled for June 15 and 16. Their first full training camp practice is on July 31, but Childress has long called himself a "mother hen" when it comes to wanting all of his players working out at the team's facility and participating in the non-padded, optional practices throughout the summer.

Favre ran a similar West Coast-style offense throughout his years with the rival Green Bay Packers, but even if he's healthy he'd need some time to adjust to new terminology and new teammates—particularly the receivers.

The Vikings were unavailable for comment Monday. Neither Childress nor Favre's agent, Bus Cook, returned messages.

Last Friday, Childress didn't answer a question about whether he'd set a deadline for Favre, claiming he wasn't thinking about it.

The same day, Cook told The Associated Press that Favre remained retired as far as he was concerned, but the agent also began touting Favre's ability without prompting—as if he were trying to sell the Vikings on a contract. The back-and-forth over deadlines could be related to negotiations.

He said: "I would think they would pull out all the stops if they want to get the guy. I think Brett Favre just brings a whole new ballgame to any ballclub. That's no reflection on the guys that are on their team at quarterback right now, but Brett's in a different league than most."

NFL BRIEFS

Cowboys deny interest in Pacman Jones

IRVING, Texas (AP)—The Dallas Cowboys say there are no plans to bring back Adam "Pacman" Jones, the cornerback whose career has been marred by off-the-field problems. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones raised the possibility in a weekend interview with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Team spokesman Rich Dalrymple said Monday the owner had told him it wasn't going to happen. After serving a one-year suspension for violating the NFL's conduct policy, Jones was acquired by the Cowboys last summer. He was released in January after problems that included a fight with his team-provided bodyguard and a six-game suspension. Jones played for the Tennessee Titans in 2005 and '06, but lately has kept busy by appearing in the reality TV show "Pros vs. Joes 4: All Stars."

Redskins become lottery team, unveil scratch-off

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—The Washington Redskins are a lottery team, albeit one with no ping-pong balls to worry about. The Redskins and the Virginia Lottery on Monday unveiled a $20 scratch-off ticket featuring the team's logo, taking advantage of a new NFL rule that allows teams to sign licensing deals with state-sponsored lotteries. The Redskins went all out for the announcement, displaying their three Super Bowl trophies in a news conference setting usually reserved for big player signings. The ticket has a top prize of $1 million, and second-chance prizes include season tickets for 20 years and a chance to travel with the team to an away game against the Dallas Cowboys. The tickets go on sale Aug. 3, shortly after the Redskins open training camp.

Seahawks agree to terms with rookie pick Greene

SEATTLE (AP)—The Seattle Seahawks have agreed to terms with seventh-round draft pick Courtney Greene. Agent Todd France confirmed in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday night that his client agreed to a four-year contract. Greene is a safety from Rutgers. He was an All-Big East Conference selection last season. He was one of Seattle's three picks in the seventh round of the draft. Seattle's six other draft choices, including No. 4 overall choice Aaron Curry, have yet to agree to deals. The rookies have been participating in Seattle's organized training activities.

LB Morgan retires again

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Sports agent Drew Rosenhaus says New Orleans Saints linebacker Dan Morgan has decided to retire from the NFL a second time. Rosenhaus announced Morgan's decision on his Web site Monday, saying Morgan wanted to thank the Saints for another chance, but that injuries "would not let him continue." Saints spokesman Greg Bensel says the Saints have not received anything official from Morgan. The 30-year-old Morgan first retired before last season after seven years with the Carolina Panthers because of multiple concussions. He was trying to make a comeback with the Saints, but left minicamp last weekend with a calf strain. Morgan was the 11th overall draft pick by the Panthers in 2001.

Contreras allows one hit in 8 innings

CHICAGO (AP)—Jose Contreras allowed one hit in eight strong innings in his return to the majors Monday, getting his first win in nearly a year as the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-1 to earn a split in their day-night doubleheader.

Alexei Ramirez, Scott Podsednik and Jim Thome homered for the White Sox in the second game after Detroit won the opener 5-4 as Brandon Inge hit a go-ahead RBI single in the ninth.

Contreras (1-5), officially recalled from Triple-A between games, ruptured his Achilles tendon last August. He made a quick recovery but struggled when he returned this season and on May 10 was sent to Charlotte, where he made five starts.

The 37-year-old Contreras allowed a two-out double to Clete Thomas in the first and had two stretches of 11 straight batters retired in earning his first win since June 27, 2008. He walked one and struck out three.

Chicago's three homers came off Detroit's Jeremy Bonderman (0-1), who was making his first major league appearance since June 1, 2008 and was activated from the disabled list between games. Bonderman had surgery June 30 last year to correct a condition that caused a blood clot in his pitching arm.

AP

Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Jose Contreras delivers during the first inning of the second game of a baseball double header against the Detroit Tigers Monday, June 8, 2009 in Chicago.

Yankees 5, Rays 3

At New York, Andy Pettitte recovered from two wild outings and Johnny Damon hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth inning as New York defeated Tampa Bay.

Mark Teixeira, Nick Swisher and Derek Jeter also homered for the Yankees, who got all their runs on longballs as Andy Sonnanstine allowed a career-high four. Tampa Bay's Gabe Kapler hit his first home run of the season.

Damon broke a 3-3 tie in the sixth with a drive to right off Sonnanstine (4-6), and Jeter chased him with a leadoff drive in the eighth. Nine of Damon's 12 home runs this season and six of Jeter's eight have come at home.

Pettitte (6-2) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 6, Rangers 3

At Arlington, Texas, Adam Lind homered twice and drove in four runs as Toronto beat Texas to snap a nine-game road losing streak.

Lind, who is 18 for 40 his last 10 games, hit two-run blasts in the second and fourth innings off Rangers starter Scott Feldman. It was Lind's first multi-homer game of his career.

Casey Janssen (2-2) gave up three runs, six hits and struck out six in 5 1-3 innings. The right-hander made his fourth start of the season after missing 2008 with a torn labrum.

Scott Downs got the final out in the eighth and pitched a scoreless ninth to earn his eighth save in nine chances.

Feldman (5-1) lost for the first time in nine starts this season.

Athletics 4, Twins 3

At Oakland, California, Jack Cust hit a go-ahead solo home run and Jack Hannahan tied the game with a three-run double as Oakland extended its best winning streak in three years to seven games with a victory over Minnesota.

Rookie Josh Outman (4-0) recovered from an early deficit to continue an impressive run by the A's young staff.

Outman, one of four rookies in Oakland's rotation, fell behind in the top of the fourth when Carlos Gomez drew a two-out, bases-loaded walk, then Matt Tolbert singled in two runs.

The A's tied it in the bottom half and went ahead on Cust's homer off Luis Ayala (1-2) in the fifth.

Oakland's Aaron Cunningham sustained a concussion after being hit in the head by a pitch.

Marlins 4, Giants 0

At Miami, Sean West did not allow a hit until the seventh inning in his fourth career start and Brett Carroll hit his first career home run to help the Florida Marlins beat Randy Johnson and the San Francisco Giants.

West (1-1) allowed one baserunner—a leadoff walk to Andres Torres in the third—through the first six innings. Edgar Renteria then lined a single to left on West's first pitch of the seventh.

West gave up two hits, one walk and struck out six in eight innings.

Johnson (5-5), pitching on short rest, four days after he earned career victory No. 300 at Washington, allowed three runs, seven hits, three walks and struck out five in five innings.

Rockies 5, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Jason Marquis took the NL lead with his eighth win and Troy Tulowitzki homered for the first time in nearly a month to help Colorado complete its first sweep in St. Louis.

The last-place Rockies won their season-high fifth in a row—four at Busch Stadium—under new manager Jim Tracy. St. Louis has lost a season-worst four straight.

Clint Barmes had a pair of RBI singles for his sixth consecutive multihit game and Brad Hawpe doubled and had a sacrifice fly in the Rockies' first sweep of the year.

Colorado last swept the Cardinals in July 1994, winning four straight at Mile High Stadium. The Rockies improved to 7-4 since Tracy took over when Clint Hurdle was fired.

Marquis (8-4) allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings against the Cardinals, for whom he won 42 games from 2004-06 but never pitched in the postseason.

Braves 7, Pirates 6, 15 innings.

At Atlanta, David Ross grounded an infield single to deep short that scored Jeff Francoeur and ended a game that lasted almost 5 hours.

Ross hit the grounder to shortstop Jack Wilson, whose throw to the third-base side of home plate pulled catcher Jason Jaramillo's foot off the plate as Francoeur slid in safely.

Pittsburgh's Jeff Karstens (2-4) loaded the bases in the 15th on a walk, a single and an intentional walk before Ross came up with one out.

Kris Medlen (2-2), Atlanta's eighth pitcher, earned the win with three scoreless innings.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 3

At San Diego, Kevin Kouzmanoff tied his career-high with four RBIs and Jake Peavy bounced back from the shortest start of his career to lead San Diego to a victory a day after losing 9-6 in 18 innings to Arizona.

Last Tuesday night, Peavy (6-6) left after just one inning of a 10-5 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies due to the flu. His start was pushed back a day to give him more time to recover.

The ace went seven innings, allowing two earned runs on seven hits. He struck out eight and walked two.

Heath Bell pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 17th save.

Arizona's Jon Garland (4-6) lost his fourth straight start.

Man pleads not guilty in Nick Adenhart's death

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—The man charged with killing Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two others in a drunken-driving crash pleaded not guilty Monday to three counts of murder as relatives of the victims looked on.

Andrew Thomas Gallo also pleaded not guilty through his attorney to three other felony charges and one misdemeanor in connection with the April 9 collision that occurred just hours after Adenhart pitched six scoreless innings in his season debut.

Adenhart

The 22-year-old Gallo watched from inside a security enclosure as defense attorney Randall Longwith entered the pleas before an Orange County Superior Court judge. About 15 members of Gallo's family were in court.

While waiting for Gallo to appear, 24-year-old Jon Wilhite, the lone member of Adenhart's group to survive, began to sob. Wilhite, who had critical injuries in the wreck, was embraced by friends and family.

Longwith said later in an interview that he will seek a change of venue because he believes Gallo cannot get a fair trial in Orange County, home of the Angels and the California State University, Fullerton, baseball team for which Wilhite had played.

The attorney noted that in another courthouse where Gallo made a previous appearance, an Angels poster was in the hallway leading to the courtroom.

Longwith also said there have been death threats against Gallo and himself via the Internet, phone and in a letter.

"I think people are venting and it's just evidence of the passion people have in this case. I don't think it's a true threat," he said, noting he had not brought it to the district attorney's attention.

Deputy District Attorney Susan Price disputed the need for moving the case.

"We don't believe that the defendant will be any more prejudiced in this county than in any other county," said Price, who was flanked by the victims' family members at a brief news conference outside the courtroom.

All the families declined to comment after the hearing. Some family members wore T-shirts and large buttons emblazoned with photos of their children.

Price said Gallo faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 45 years to life in prison if convicted of the three second-degree murder charges. If convicted of all charges, the minimum would be 54 years and eight months to life.

Police have said Gallo had nearly triple the legal blood-alcohol level when the minivan he was driving ran a red light in Fullerton and broadsided the silver Mitsubishi Eclipse carrying Adenhart and three friends to a dance club to celebrate his success.

The impact spun around both vehicles, and one then struck another car but that driver was not hurt, police said.

Gallo fled on foot and was captured about 30 minutes later, police said.

The 22-year-old Adenhart died in surgery at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center. Another passenger, 25-year-old Henry Nigel Pearson of Manhattan Beach, and the driver, 20-year-old Courtney Frances Stewart of Diamond Bar, died at the scene.

Stewart was a student at nearby Cal State Fullerton, where she was a cheerleader in 2007-08. Pearson, who played high school baseball with Wilhite, was a graduate of Arizona State University and was pursuing a law degree when he died.

Wilhite, of Manhattan Beach, was hospitalized for weeks for "internal decapitation," a rare and often fatal separation of the skull from the spinal column.

Wilhite, who played baseball from 2004-08 at Fullerton, has since been discharged from the hospital and is undergoing outpatient physical therapy.

He came to the arraignment in a wheelchair but was able to get up and enter the courtroom under his own power, albeit with an unsteady gait. His head was closely shaved and had a long scar at the base of the skull.

He and his family declined to comment after the arraignment.

Longwith noted that Gallo was being housed in a 14-man jail cell and was not in protective custody. He said his client is frequently in tears during their meetings and was crying when he came into court.

"He was pretty much in shock," Longwith said.

UFO caging, SML baseball rained-out

Intermittent rain caused the cancellation of games in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League and the 2009 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

Last Thursday, the UFO caging scheduled two games, but called off the matches, as the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan was unplayable. In rained Wednesday night and Thursday afternoon, making the JP Center court slippery.

Last Sunday, Bayani and Samahang Manggagawang Filipino were playing in the second half before rain halted the match and forced organizers to reset the game.

Bayani and SMF were both aiming for their second win in the UFO caging. The Jericho Cruz and Bonbon Cadagat-led SMF whipped Cabalen, 117-81, during the league's opening on May 24. Bayani also won its debut game, topping VisMinda, 99-91, on May 28.

In BSML, the Bob O'Connor Tigers were supposed to challenge the IT&E Young Guns in the last game of the regular season. It rained a few hours before the game started, making the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield unplayable.

The Tigers-Young Guns tiff was reset for last night, but results of the game were unavailable at press time. A win will keep the Young Guns' chances for a playoff seat alive. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs. Early qualifiers include the Ford Rangers, D-9ers, and Rock Steady. The Young Guns are battling the Tanapag Falcons for the last playoff spot. ***(Roselyn Monroyo).***

AGUON

From Page 28

and Johnson (5'6").

"I believe we will be the smallest team in the tournament. So we must be fast and quick on offense and play tenacious defense," Aguon said.

Chariton, Rabauliman, Cruz, Tumaquip, and Johnson have played for the CNMI before, competing in last year's Oceania youth tournament in Guam. Ada, Fitial, and Barcinas were members of the CNMI Men's Nationals who played in the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan. Iguel is a known scorer and a veteran of various youth leagues, while Lieto played for the Tanapag Warriors in the Rotary and 25-and-under caging.

"This will be the biggest and most challenging tournament that all of them would probably play in so we are all looking forward to it. It will be an experience of a life time," Aguon said.

"This tournament will be the best thing to happen to the CNMI basketball. As the saying goes, if you want to be the best or improve your game, you must play against the best. This is what's going to happen. It will really help us with our preparation for the Micro Games in 2010," he added.

The FIBA Oceania caging will run from June 20 to 28 with CNMI facing Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, and Guam.

Games will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LUCAS

From Page 28

something in my last game. It was more or less going out and having a good game with my friends for the last soccer game with players my age," Knecht said.

Knecht will be leaving for Canton, Georgia on June 19 to study at Creekview High School and will be bringing with him the teamwork, camaraderie, and friendship he shared with his MP United U18 teammates.

"The U18 championship was a real team effort from everyone on the field. My friend, Josh (Camacho), played only seven soccer games in his life, but still came out to give his best game and then Bo Barry always hustled for defense. Hunter Thorpe had nice headers and my brother R.J. was double teamed in midfield, but still came up with the ball. R.J. just got his cast off four weeks ago, but somehow he still found a way to get control of the ball," Lucas said.

"People don't realize it, but our team has six 13-year-olds out there, who just worked hard during a really intense, fast, and physical game. Dae Min Jeon had a swollen, torn up knee and never gave up, with pain in every step. Brad Brostrom fought to get pass the tough IFC defense. Caleb Arriola, our keeper, came up with great saves. It was all 12 guys going out there, making it happen," he added.

Soccer influence

Lucas talked about how he got into soccer and made him the kind of player he is right now.

"My mom (Sue) and my brother (R.J.) made me play when Perry Lo was sort of getting kids together way back before Ada Gym even had a track and nice field. I started playing when I was eight or nine, but then soccer went away for a while, until NMIFA was formed. My mom was really involved at that time, and when I was 12, that's when I really started to learn the game," Lucas said.

One year later, Lucas was off to his first international tournament, as he competed in Beijing.

"When we went to Beijing when I was 13, it was my inspiration. I saw what I could learn and could be, and wanted to get better," said Lucas, who also looked up to teammate and former CNMI coach Nick Swaim.

"Coach Nick has been a good role model and influence on me becoming a better player and sportsman. He is the best, he is a strong competitor, and loyal teammate. He is what I want to be as a player when I am ready to begin hopefully a college career. I am really glad he became a coach and especially a player on our men's league team," Lucas said.

The 16-year-old striker also mentioned the past and present coaches of CNMI.

"Maybe one of my favorites was coach Tsuki (Tsukitate Norio) of Guam. I learned a lot from him in just two weeks. There were also coach (Jahangir) Hossain from my U14 team and coach Ziggy (Jeff Korytoski), who had tough early morning workouts. Coach (Jason) Higgins was only here for a short time, but he always took the time to explain things. Coach (Sugao) Kambe is very patient, and explains everything, he never shouts. He is always positive and encourages me, his experience shows," Lucas said.

Play for CNMI, high school team

Despite leaving Saipan this month, Lucas said he is still willing to play for the CNMI National Team. He also hopes to suit up for a high school team or a club in Canton, Georgia.

"I always want to be a part of the CNMI Nationals. I hope to play more competitively in the U.S., so I can develop more skills and really contribute to the CNMI," said Lucas, who joined the Commonwealth's team in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition in Guam early this month.

"I had a lot of good times with the men's national team training. They have helped me with my goals, and I feel really proud of how we played together in Guam last March. Even though the National Team training was so hard when I was 13, it made me learn good work ethics," said Lucas, who admitted he still needs a lot of work to get to the level he wants to be at.

"If I have to say one thing, it would be first touch, knowing what to do with the ball before I get it, and definitely shots, I want to get better with taking more shots from all over the field," he said.

While waiting for another tour of duty for the CNMI Nationals, Lucas hopes to join the Cherokee Attack, which is one of the teams under Cherokee Youth Football Association. The association sponsors high school programs for Etowah, Sequoyah, Creekview, and Cherokee.

MIEKO

From Page 28

In the men's pro division, two participants in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship finished in the Top 3 with inaugural XTERRA Saipan winner Mike Vine of Canada ruling the race.

Vine, who was runner-up to United Kingdom's Sam Gardner in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan, posted 2:13:12 to beat six other pros. The Canadian triathlete timed in at 20:23 in the swim leg, 1:14:26 in the bike, and 38:52 in the run part.

Gardner settled for third place with a combined time of 2:14:42 (22:25; 1:13:37; 38:24), while Scott Thorne of the U.S. finished second (2:14:28).

Mieko's husband, Kevin, competed in the 35 to 39 age group and was fifth among 32 participants. Kevin logged a total time of 3:17:31. He clocked 29:30 in the swim part, 1:49:26 in the bike leg, and 58:34 in the run portion.

TINIAN

From Page 28

though the help of our Rota leaders, the players' parents and other private companies/individuals, we are able to play in the district tournament and continue our commitment of providing our youth a venue where they can excel and display their skills," said Rota Little League president Juan Ayuyu.

Rota brought their Major and Junior All-Stars on Saipan last weekend with the former advancing to the finals before losing to the hosts. The Rota Junior All-Stars also bowed to Saipan bets.

"In every district tournament, Saipan is always the favorite, but we always give our best shot every time we play Saipan. We always come to the district tournament determined to beat Saipan," Ayuyu added.

For his part, Tinian Little League president Ike Aquiningoc believes in every tournament there will always be winners and losers, but one cannot downplay the value of having your players compete against other players and show they have a game, too.

"Every year, our players look forward to the district meet. This gives them the opportunity to challenge Saipan and Rota players in an even playing field. As officials, we always see to it that we will not deny them that chance, no matter how hard it is to send teams to off-island tournaments," Aquiningoc said.

"It is our commitment to Tinian youth to continue to provide them opportunities to excel in baseball and to play in tough tournaments and we would like to thank the Tinian delegation, its leaders, and the players' parents for helping us honor that commitment," Aquiningoc added.

Tinian fielded its Major and Senior All-Stars in the district meet.

CNMI District Administrator James Ada, during the opening ceremony for the tournament last Friday, thanked the Tinian, Rota, and Saipan Little League programs for ensuring that more and more kids are getting involved in baseball every year and for continuing the legacy started by CNMI baseball great Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios.

Palacios attended the opening ceremony of the district meet and told *Saipan Tribune* he is delighted that baseball and the Little League program in the CNMI is still going strong.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, who was one of the guest speakers in the event and threw the ceremonial pitch, said CNMI Little Leaguers make the Commonwealth proud by playing in the Asia Pacific Regional Tournament and eventually in the World Series.

The CNMI's Junior, Senior, and Big League All-Stars are heading to Jakarta, Indonesia later this month for the Regionals, while the Major All-Stars are bound for Taipei next month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Rota Major All-Stars pose with their coaches and officials before the opening ceremony for the 2009 CNMI District Tournament last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	34	23	.596	–
Boston	33	24	.579	1
Toronto	33	27	.550	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	29	30	.492	6
Baltimore	24	33	.421	10

Central Division

Detroit	31	26	.544	–
Minnesota	28	31	.475	4
Chicago	27	31	.466	4 1/2
Kansas City	24	32	.429	6 1/2
Cleveland	25	34	.424	7

West Division

Texas	33	24	.579	–
Los Angeles	28	27	.509	4
Seattle	28	29	.491	5
Oakland	26	30	.464	6 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	33	22	.600	–
New York	30	25	.545	3
Atlanta	28	28	.500	5 1/2
Florida	28	31	.475	7
Washington	15	40	.273	18

Central Division

Milwaukee	33	24	.579	–
St. Louis	31	27	.534	2 1/2
Chicago	28	26	.519	3 1/2
Cincinnati	29	27	.518	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	26	31	.456	7
Houston	25	30	.455	7

West Division

Los Angeles	39	20	.661	–
San Francisco	29	27	.518	8 1/2
San Diego	27	30	.474	11
Colorado	25	32	.439	13
Arizona	25	33	.431	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Colorado 5, St. Louis 2
Atlanta 7, Pittsburgh 6, 15 innings
Florida 4, San Francisco 0
San Diego 6, Arizona 3
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 1st game
Chicago White Sox 6,
Detroit 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 3
Toronto 6, Texas 3
Oakland 4, Minnesota 3

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA STANDINGS

Numa Numa	10	0
Hits For Brains	7	2
Hoof Hearted	7	3
UMESSUPUOUT	6	3
MHS One Heart	6	4
Plum Smugglers	6	5
Spankers	5	4
Angry Red Dragon	3	6
South Beach	4	7
GCA	2	7
MHS Bobais	1	8
We're Here	1	9

Four more teams barge into playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only one playoff spot is left in the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League after last week's games resulted to four more teams getting slots for the next round.

Joining early qualifiers Numa Numa, Hits for Brains, and Hoof Hearted in the eight-team playoff round are UMESSUPUOUT, MHS One Heart, Plum Smugglers, and Spankers.

UMESSUPUOUT won two games last week, downing Spankers 21-16, 11-21, 15-9, and Hoof Hearted, 17-21, 23-21, 15-4, to improve to a 6-3 record and keep its hold to the No. 4 spot. UMESSUPUOUT was closing out its regular season campaign with back-to-back games last night against Angry Red Dragon and We're Here.

From sixth place, MHS One Heart moved up to fifth with its 6-4 slate, following its twin wins last Wednesday. MHS One Heart thumped Grace Christian Academy in the second game, 23-21, 21-14, 15-9, and made it two in a row after outlasting South Beach in the third game of the night, 21-11, 18-21, 15-7. MHS One Heart will play its last game tonight against Hoof Hearted.

The Plum Smugglers are done in the regular season with their 6-5 record. A 22-20, 21-17, 15-0 win against GCA in their last game put the Plum Smugglers in sixth place in the team standings.

Spankers split their two games last week, but are still assured of a ticket to the next round, as their 5-4 slate left the team at the No. 7 spot. After losing to UMESSUPUOUT last week, Spankers secured a playoff seat following a 21-13, 18-21, 17-15 victory over Angry Red Dragon last Wednesday.

Angry Red Dragon with its 3-6 record is at a precarious place at No. 8. It needs to sweep its last two games to claim the last playoff slot. Angry Red Dragon was scheduled to meet UMESSUPUOUT last night and it will face MHS Bobais today.

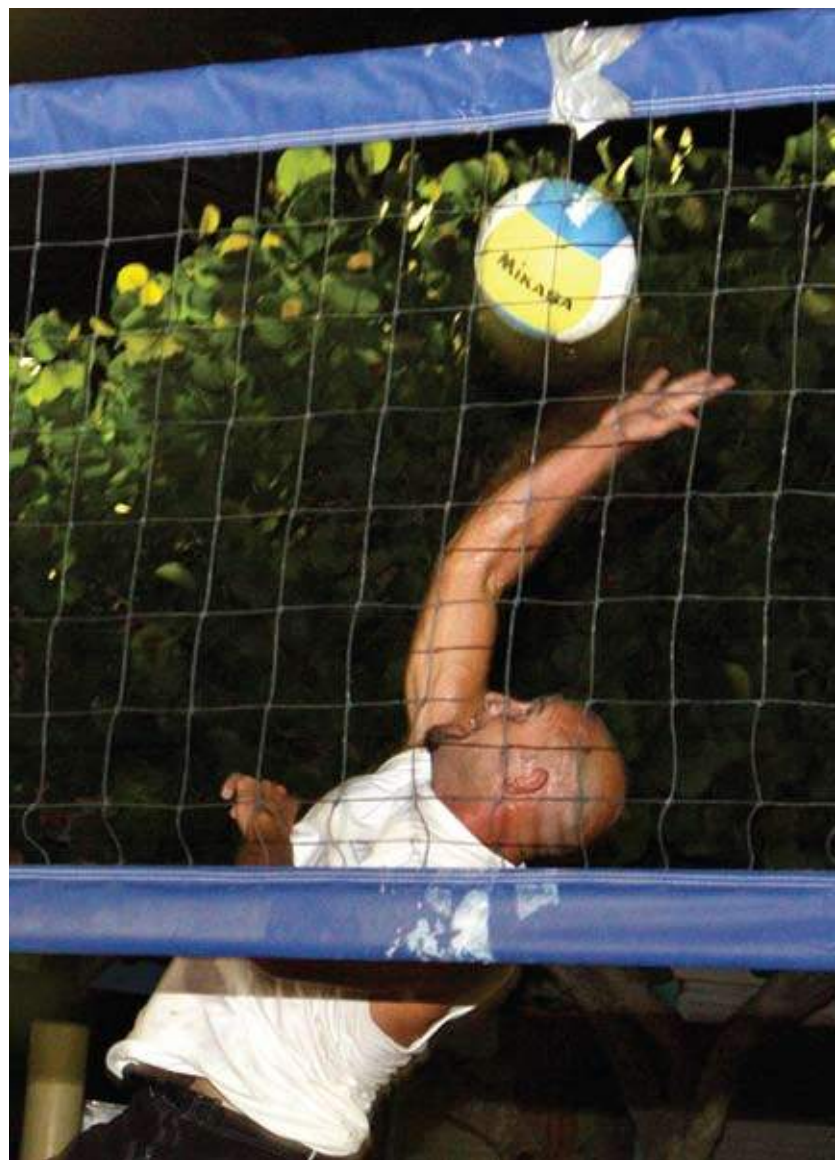
If Angry Red Dragon loses both games, it could tie South Beach (4-7) at No. 8. A tie will be broken by sets won. If there is still a tie, then organizers will proceed to head-to-head record, points for, and points against. In 11 matches, South Beach won 14 sets and lost 19. With two games left, Angry Red Dragon holds a 12-15 sets won-sets loss slate.

GCA (2-7), MHS Bobais (1-8), and We're Here 1-9) are already out of contention.

Numa Numa finished on top of the leaderboard with its 10-0 record, followed by Hits for Brains (7-2), and Hoof Hearted (7-3).

Hits for Brains entered last week's action undefeated in seven games, but dropped two consecutive matches, losing its chance for an unbeaten season. Hits for Brains was stunned by MHS One Heart last Tuesday and also bowed to Numa Numa last Thursday, 19-21, 21-17, 21-19.

The playoff round will be played tomorrow with a single elimination format. The No. 1 seed team will face the No. 8 ranked squad, No. 2 vs. No. 7, No. 3 vs. No.6, and No. 4 vs. No. 5. The last two teams left standing will play in the finals at 8:15pm.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Plum Smugglers' Nick Gross leans back to return the ball in one of their regular season games in the NMIFA four-person beach volleyball league on the PIC sand court.

Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball set to start

The softball season is officially in full swing as Pacific Trading Co. will start its 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier on June 20 at the Dandan Elementary School Softball Field.

PTC sales manager Mike Babauta said the winner of the Saipan qualifier will represent the island in the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Tournament, where it will go up against the qualifiers from Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

He said he expects as many as 10 teams to take part in the tourney, which will adopt a modified co-ed format. The format calls for nine male and a female player on the field for defense at all times, while the batting lineup must include two female players.

Mercy rule will also be applied for the tournament. The 10-run mercy rule takes effect starting in the fifth inning, while the 15-run mercy rule will apply beginning in the fourth inning.

Games in the Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier will be held every Saturday beginning at 10am.

The champion of the Saipan qualifier will take home $500 in cash plus other prizes from PTC. Deadline for entry forms and the $200 entry fee is on June 17, 6pm during the scheduled captains meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Babauta is also looking for all-female teams to compete against an all-women's team from Guam. Entry fee for the women's division of the Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier is $150.

For more information about the 7th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier, call Jovie Flores at 256-5515 or 287-5515.

Last year, centerfielder Julian Camacho blasted two homers to lead Shell Marianas to an 8-0 shutout win over Natibu in the championship match in the 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier at the Capitol Hil Ballfield.

The championship was the sixth in a row for the winning team, which changed its name from No Ka Oi to Shell Marianas last year. ***(Mark Rabago)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shell Marianas members flash the No. 6 sign after ruling the 2008 Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier for the sixth straight time. Shell Marianas beat Natibu at the Capitol Hill Ballfield last year.

KOD qualifiers meeting tomorrow

Organizers of the series of qualifying rounds for the Saipan leg of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament are calling on representatives of interested teams to attend a mandatory meeting tomorrow.

The meeting is set for 5:30pm at the Garapan Beach House, located behind McDonald's Garapan.

The first qualifying tournament for KOD will take place this weekend, June 13 and 14, at the Capital Hill Ballfield. Only the first 12 teams to register will be allowed to compete in the qualifier. After this weekend's first qualifier, the next two weekend tournament will be held on Aug.1 and 2, and Sept. 26 and 27. The fourth/consolation round is scheduled for Oct. 3 and 4, while the Tournament of Champions-Saipan leg is set for Oct. 17 and 18.

Teams allowed to compete in the Tournament of Champions must place first in one of the first three rounds. Squads hoping to qualify for the fourth/consolation round should join at least two of the first three rounds. Winner of the consolation round will then gain a slot to the Tournament of Champions-Saipan Leg to play three other qualifiers.

The champion of the Saipan leg will represent the CNMI to the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament and will challenge teams from Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei.

Saipan will host the four-island tournament from Nov. 12 to 15.

For more information about KOD, contact Liz Palacios at 287-8869 or Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Tsunami Saipan offers swim lessons anew

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will provide American Red Cross swimming lessons starting this weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The swimming lessons will be from 10am to 11am on June 13 and from June 15 to June 18. Participants must be at least 5 years old as Tsunami Saipan will not allow toddlers to take part in the clinic.

According to Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good, the swimming lessons will be conducted by swimmers and coaches of the club.

At the end of the five-day American Red Cross swimming lessons conducted by the club, participants will receive American Red Cross certificates.

Entry cost is $30 with each additional family member getting a $5 discount ($25). Registration is set this Saturday, 9:15am to 9:45am. Slots will be in a first-come, first-serve basis.

To pre-register or for more information about the American Red Cross swimming lessons of Tsunami Saipan, email Yuko Kimura at tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp.

Good, in an earlier interview, said the American Red Cross swim lessons are an important step in improving the water safety awareness of people on Saipan.

Tsunami Saipan is expected to use the big portion of the funds raised from the registration fee for purchase of equipment, off-island competitions, and monthly fees at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will conduct American Red Cross swimming lessons beginning this June 13 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Lakers come to Orlando, look to make Magic vanish

Gone is the teeth-baring, nose-flaring, eyes-on-the-prize scowl that the Los Angeles Lakers star showed again and again in Game 1 of the NBA finals. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Four more teams barge into playoffs

Only one playoff spot is left in the 2009 Miller Lite/Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League after last week's games resulted to four more teams getting slots for the next round. **26**

Aguon bares CNMI national team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Men's Nationals coach Rufino Aguon has named the 10 players that will represent the Commonwealth in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament on Saipan later this month.

Making the CNMI Men's Nationals are Keoni Chariton, George Lieto, Oscar Ada, Kelvin Fitial, Quincy Johnson, Pete Iguel, Marvin Rabauliman, Danandro Barcinas, Joemary Tumaquip, and Jericho Cruz.

"These are the guys that have been training for the last four months. They were joined by Oscar and Dan recently," Aguon said.

Barcinas, who is based in Oregon, arrived on Saipan a week ago, while Ada has been here for about a month. Barcinas' inclusion on the team will add more depth to the CNMI Nationals' offense, while Ada's presence will give the host more ceiling. Ada is the tallest player of the CNMI Nationals at 6'5". The CNMI's two other six-foot players are Fitial (6'1") and Cruz (6'0), who is likely to share the scoring load for the Commonwealth with Barcinas and Iguel.

Besides Iguel and Barcinas, Aguon has three more point guards on the team in the Chariton (5'8"), Tumaquip (5'6"),

See AGUON on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Nationals' Pete Iguel, right, drives to the baseline against Oscar Ada during their training session at the NMC Gymnasium last Monday night.

Lucas saves best for last

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Name: *Lucas Knecht*
Age: *16*
Club: *MP United FC, National Team*
Position: *Defender, Midfielder*
Favorite Team: *CNMI*
Favorite Player: *Fernando Torres*

Lucas Knecht played in his last U18 tournament on Saipan last Saturday at the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football Festival and left the age group competition with a bang.

Knecht made a golden goal that lifted MP United to a 2-1 title win over Independents Football Club. He also created the opportunity for an "own goal" that was credited to MP United in the second half to tie the game.

"It feels great to go out with a bang. I did not really think about leaving MP United with

See LUCAS on Page 26

MP United's Lucas Knecht kisses the boys' U18 trophy they won during the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday at the CPA Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko finishes second in XTERRA Malaysia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan resident Mieko Carey made it into the Top 3 of the women's pro division of the 2009 XTERRA Malaysia held over the weekend in Kuantan, Pahang.

Carey was runner-up to five-time XTERRA Saipan Championship winner Renata Bucher of Switzerland, as she finished the race in two hours, 55 minutes, and eight seconds against the latter's 2:45:26.

XTERRA Malaysia, which took place in the largest state [Pahang] in Peninsular Malaysia, featured a 1.5-kilometer swim in clear blue waters of the South China Sea. The 30-km bike course brought riders to "a green jungle and double track heading away from the beach and can best be described as a roller coaster ride, and the descents are surely a challenging test for many mountain bikers," according to the XTERRA Malaysia website. The 10-km trail run brought triathletes back to the beach and then headed off into the thick jungle, running past the local zoo before racing the hilly jungle trails, then a short climb in the woods before heading back to the finishing chute to the finish line.

Carey, who was ranked only fourth in XTERRA Saipan this year after a bike crash, finished 19th overall among more than 150 participants in XTERRA Malaysia, while Bucher placed 11th. Only the combined and swim times in the women's pro division were available at press time. Bucher's Waterloo is the swim part, so as expected she completed the 1.5-km swim leg a minute behind Carey with the Swiss triathlete clocking in at 24:00 against the Saipan bet's 23:00. Daniela Erni placed third behind Bucher and Carey with a combined time of 3:18:14.

See MIEKO on Page 26

WWW.XTERRAMALAYSIA.COM
Saipan resident and XTERRA Malaysia runner-up Mieko Carey, right, enjoys a light moment with champion Renata Bucher, center, and third placer Daniela Erni during the awards ceremony for last weekend's races held in Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

Tinian, Rota Little League remains committed to youth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota and Tinian made it to this year's CNMI District Tournament played over the weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield to show their commitment to the Little League program.

"Funding will always be a problem for a team sport, like baseball. At this current economic crisis, it was really hard to send more than 20 players and several coaches to Saipan. However,

See TINIAN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Tinian Major All-Stars pose with their coaches and officials before the opening ceremony for the 2009 CNMI District Tournament last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.